

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:31-37** 48- Jesus' Authority Over Demons- Part 3

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Luke 4:31-37

In this passage- we have a man sitting there in this synagogue and the pure Gospel is coming out of the Mouth of Jesus with Power and Authority and tremendous force, and it hits the demon square in the face and the Bible says that the demon screams. That's what the phrase "**he cried out with a loud voice**" literally means- the demon- not the man- but the demon who was *inside* the man screams with a loud voice, right in the middle of Jesus' preaching.

Now look back at verse 31. Luke says here that Jesus was teaching. Now the construction of the Greek words here shows us very clearly that Jesus was right in the midst of His teaching- He was in the midst of His sermon and right in the middle of His sermon- this demon just begins to scream at Him.

Now, as I told you last time- the Power and Authority that Jesus has over all devils and demons forced this demon to blow his cover here. Demons don't normally do this. They would much rather stay hidden and subtly destroy individuals. They would prefer to carry out their evil work in a secretive fashion- because they can conquer so many more people without frightening anyone.

But now this demon is fully exposed. No place for him to hide anymore. It is now abundantly clear to everybody- even to unbelievers that this man is demon possessed. And, of course, that means that this man is unsaved because the Scripture is clear to teach us that saved people *cannot* be demon possessed. Demons may *fight* Christians, they may *attack* Christians, and they may even *hinder* Christians- but they *cannot* go *inside* a genuine believer and take over his soul or his heart, because saved people have been eternally sealed by the Holy Spirit and

his heart is no longer *available* to the devil and his angels for possession. Please turn with me and read **Ephesians 1:3-14**:

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

The word that was translated here in verse 13 as "sealed" is from the Greek word *sfragizoo* (suh-frag-ee-soo), which means: *to keep secure*. This sealing of our souls is similar to when a sovereign monarch seals a legal paper with wax and places his own ring into the hot wax to signify that it is the king himself who has secured this legal document and no one else but the king who sealed it would dare to open it.

Our hearts and souls have been eternally sealed by the King of kings, and no demon in hell can penetrate that seal and open our hearts

to demonic influence. From the very moment of Salvation- only Jesus may open our hearts and only Jesus may live in our hearts. There is no room in the heart of a true believer for satan.

At this point- many people ask- "*Well what about so and so- because I know that they were once saved and now they are demon possessed.*" And the easiest answer to that question is that we may think that somebody is saved- but in reality- we don't know if anybody is genuinely saved besides ourselves. So most people like that example - who go through the motions for several weeks, months, or even years- and who then turned aside and are now possessed by devils were simply never truly saved because the Bible is clear that saved people are sealed by the Holy Spirit and cannot be demon possessed.

So we are right to take great comfort and hope in this sealing and we are correct to conclude that based upon that Divine sealing- no genuine Christian- who was chosen by God from before the foundation of the world, no Christian who has been drawn to Jesus by the Holy Ghost, no Christian who has been received and washed and forgiven and saved by Jesus- can ever in any way be possessed by demons.

Now please look back at **Luke 4:34** again:

“Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

Luke writes here that the demon used the word *heah*- which comes from the Greek verb *heao*, which means: "let *me* alone" as singular and "let *us* alone" as plural. Now if you read out of the King James Version- you will notice that the word "us" in verse 34 is in italics which means that this word was *not* in the original manuscript- but was added by the translators to clarify the verse. So, if there was one demon in the man it should read "Let *me* alone", and if there were two or more demons inside the man- it should read "Let *us* alone".

Now this is Luke's way of introducing another fascinating concept about demon possession. The Bible clearly teaches that it is possible that a single human being can be inhabited and controlled and dominated by more than one demon. We will go into this in much greater detail later- but there was one man that Luke writes about in **Luke 8** which was further described in **Mark 5** who had a legion of 2,000 demons living inside him. But it was just as easy for Jesus to take total

authority over 2,000 demons in **Luke 8** as it is for Him to command this one demon here in **Luke 4**.

Now it is a common experience in Church for people to think that the Pastor is talking directly to them in his sermon. I have had several people get real upset with me because they thought I was bashing them and when I tried to explain to them that I wasn't doing that- it didn't help at all.

What actually happens is that these people heard the Word of God and this living and powerful Sword of the Spirit pierced them and divided between their soul and their spirit, and it unveiled and made manifest the very thoughts and intents of their hearts and they got so convicted about what God the Holy Spirit put in that verse or passage that they would bet money that I either overheard a conversation that they were having or else somebody told me something about them and they just know that I was gunning for them.

And rather than get angry with me- they should fall on their face and repent because of what Gods' Word said about them.

Well that's exactly the way this demon felt right here. The demon just knew that Jesus was gunning for him and so in his own defense- he screamed out- "*Let us alone!*"

Now, the interesting thing about this is that the demon was right. Jesus was gunning for him. Jesus was actively seeking out the lost to rescue them from satan's power- because He had come to destroy all the works of the devil. Jesus never lived one second of one day down here on earth as a casual observer. Jesus was never neutral in anything that He said or did. Jesus never spent one second of his life idle; He never ever wasted one minute of His Life. Also- Jesus was never *reacting* to something that satan already did.

No, Jesus was God, and Jesus was actively taking the *offensive* here in carrying out the Plan of His Father that God had created from before the foundations of the world to seek those who were held captive by satan so that He could forcefully and violently steal them away from the clutches of sin and demons and bring them into the Kingdom of His Father.

So this demon felt that Jesus was coming right at him because he knew firsthand the Power and the Authority over demons that Jesus had. So the demon couldn't restrain himself. Jesus preaching the Good News of Salvation- which is deliverance for the poor, and the prisoners,

and the blind and the oppressed, and Jesus is coming to free them from Satan, and free them from the demons, and free them from sin, death, darkness, and hell.

And Jesus is going to take the penitent sinner and He is going to deliver him from the domain of darkness He is going to bring that person into the everlasting Kingdom of God. And in order to do that- Jesus is going to utterly destroy and vanquish the entirety of all the works of the devil- and this demon knew all this

So this Good News of Salvation is actually terribly Bad News that this demon hears. And that is the way that it always is. If you are saved or chosen to be saved- then this Good News is Good indeed- in fact- it is the Best News that you could ever possibly be given.

But if you refuse to repent, if you refuse to surrender your life totally to the Lordship of Jesus Christ- then this very same Good News that thrills the heart of millions of believers all over the world is the Worst possible News that you could ever hear. You see, when Jesus bursts the clouds of Glory and comes back to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords- we who are saved will rejoice in that day- but those who are lost- that very same moment that just thrills our hearts will be the worst day of their lives, and the Bible says that they will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the Face of the Lamb of God.

Listen carefully, dear friends, Jesus is either your Lord or your Judge. He is either the Savior of your soul or else He is the Instrument Who will bring God's Wrath to you. You will either gladly run into His tender and loving Arms in that day for comfort, or you will stand trembling before Him and look into Eyes that burn like flames of fire to judge your life. Come to Jesus today, run to Jesus now, do not hesitate- repent and be confess your sins and be saved today. I beg you - please do not leave here this morning lost or backslidden- because today is the Day of Salvation.

So this is the end of this demons power over this man because Jesus is going to forcefully and violently rip this soul out of his hands. Now what is fascinating here is that this demon knows that this is exactly what Jesus is going to do and he also knows that there is absolutely nothing that he can do to stop it. Look at the second part of **Luke 4:34:**

... what business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth?

Now I want you to put your finger right here in **Luke 4** and turn with me to **John 14:30**:

I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

Jesus says here that the "prince of this world"- who is satan- has "**nothing in me**". There is absolutely no relation between satan and Jesus, nothing in common, no area of commonality, no ground for agreement. Satan is opposed to everything about Jesus 100% and Jesus is opposed to everything about satan 100%. This is a Spiritual principle called "Christian Separation". Christian Separation teaches that genuine believers should have as little to do with evil influences as they possibly can without violating the Divine Command of God to occupy in this world and to be salt and light in this world until Jesus comes.

In other words- we are *not* called to be monks in a monastery- living our lives in total separation from all worldly and sinful influences - no, we are called to labor and to live among sinners, and to rub shoulders with the world every day- except that we are do that without doing what they do and without being influenced by their pagan ways. And that delicate balance is not always easy to achieve. But even though it may be hard- dear friends- we are commanded to find that balance and walk in it.

We are to work very hard every single day to *minimize* all evil influences in our lives- that come into our eyes or our ears or our minds precisely because satan has nothing in Jesus. The Apostle Paul taught about Christian Separation when he wrote this in **2Corinthians 6:14-18**:

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 “Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

18 “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.

And you can argue about this with me till Jesus comes and I will always tell you the same thing. If you are playing around with the world- you will lose and the world will win. If you listen to ungodly music, if you watch ungodly television- which is getting harder and harder to watch it at all- if you read ungodly books, if you hang around ungodly people- then understand that you are being fed a diet of things that come from the pit, and that are motivated and controlled by demonic power, and you will get weak and you will not only sin- but you will get to a place where you will actually *justify* that sin and take up for it.

But if you want to be strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might- then you *must* be on a steady and disciplined diet of Prayer, Bible Study, and Godly Fellowship- living a life that is totally dedicated to the Will of God and separated from the world. And there is no other way to be strong in the Lord. None.

But even at that- there is no way to win souls or to hold a job or to be salt and light in this world without rubbing shoulders with ungodly people. That is true. But while that is absolutely true- it is equally true to say that the more worldly television shows you watch, the more worldly books you read, the more worldly music you listen to, and the more unsaved worldly friends you hang around- the weaker you will be, the more sin you will be engaged in, and that sin will not offend you or even convict you. In fact, the great danger of worldliness is that being worldly actually makes sin look attractive.

So, whereas you cannot live in this world and be totally separated- without *any* separation- you are setting yourself up to fail God. The Apostle John said this in **1John 2:15-17:**

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

So you need to know that there is a line. And on this side of the line- you are occupying till Jesus comes, and you are being salt and light, and you are obeying God, and you are bearing good and godly fruit, and you are sowing seeds in people's lives.

But on that side of the line- you are copping out on Christian Separation, and you are compromising with sin, and you are being worldly - and that means that the love of the Father is not in you.

And so you need to know where that line is and you need to know that the most sure remedy for all of these things is not to lock yourself up in your house- peeking out through the curtains- but it is to simply be busy in the Work of The Lord.

This demon knows Who Jesus is. He recognizes- not only Jesus' Power and Authority- but he also recognizes Jesus, too. After all- the Bible says that this demon was with Jesus in Heaven before satan fell, and God cast satan and 1/3 of all the fallen angels to the earth. So in order to discover what Scripture actually teaches about the origins of demons- we need to turn in our Bibles to **The Revelation 12:**

1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems

4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Now the Bible says in **Proverbs 16:18**:

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

... and the most notorious and tragic illustration of that Biblical Principle is right here with the fall of Satan and the angels. Satan's prideful and wicked rebellion against God is the single most horrific act of celestial High Treason that the world has ever known. By this one act- Lucifer fell from Heaven like lightning and he was cast down into

the earth from his exalted position in **Ezekiel 28:14** as the "**anointed cherub who covers**". Satan forfeited his place as one of the highest created beings and became the supreme enemy of God. And this rebellion by satan touched off a cosmic war throughout the universe- which makes every other war in human experience puny by comparison.

We must realize that satan's war against God is a two-front war. By leading a mutiny against God among the angels- satan attempted unsuccessfully to destroy the paradise of Heaven itself. And by leading a mutiny against God with Adam and Eve- satan destroyed the earthly paradise of the Garden of Eden and plunged the whole human race into decay and corruption, and temporarily usurped the role of the one true "ruler of this world".

When Lucifer rebelled as recorded in **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Ezekiel 28:12-17**- a full one-third of the angels foolishly and wickedly cast their lots with him. Now at that moment- none of the angels could have possibly known what the eternal consequences of their choice would be. Wanting to be like God- they became as much unlike Him as possible. And these fallen angels (or demons) became satan's storm troopers on the earth- doing the bidding of their evil commander. They fight against all Divine Purpose- making war with both the holy angels of Heaven who did not rebel and the entire human race.

And when Adam and Eve fell into corruption by choosing to listen to satan's lies and disobey God- the entire human race became embroiled in the cosmic war of the ages. In fact, since the Fall- the earth has been the primary stage on which that war has been fought.

And today- although already fallen- every single member of the human race faces the same choice as the angels did in eternity past- to either fight with God or against Him. Understand this- nobody is neutral- Jesus Himself said in **Luke 11:23**:

He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

Now in his vision of The Revelation of Jesus Christ- the Apostle John saw this great battle and he saw the fall of the arch angel Lucifer, and he saw the creation of demons when in verse 4- the great red dragon's tail

... swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

Before this moment- there were no demons at all, and since this moment- the earth has been filled with demons. Now just to give you an idea about the math here- turn back to **The Revelation 9:13-21**

13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.*

18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.

19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;

21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

So from this we can conclude that at the very moment when Lucifer and the rebellious angels or demons were cast out of Heaven- a huge army of 200,000,000 of them were locked underneath the great River Euphrates which runs right through downtown Baghdad in Iraq- where they have been kept locked up now for over 6,000 years.

And at some point during the Great Tribulation- the Bible says here that this army of 200,000,000 demons, or fallen angels, will be

loosed all at once to go throughout the earth- tormenting those who refuse to repent.

But all of the fallen angels or demons were not locked up under the River Euphrates. Some of them have been free to roam throughout the earth to make war against God by fighting God's people. This is what John saw back in **The Revelation 12:17** that says:

So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Demons are waging war against God and will continue to do so until they are cast into the lake of fire- at the end of this age.

Now there is a great misconception about satan and demons that I need to clear up here. Many believe that satan is the ruler of Hell. Some even teach that satan sits in a throne down in hell where he plans his attacks that are carried out on the earth. One poor soul who claims that he actually went down into hell wrote a book giving very elaborate details about the throne that satan supposedly sits in.

That man said that he wrote that book to warn people about hell. And he is no doubt very sincere. But, he is dead wrong about that and he is very arrogant about it, too. People have already been given a far better warning about hell than anything that this man or me or anyone else could ever write, and that warning came straight out of the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God and it is found on the pages of inspired Scripture.

I really don't know why this man thinks that anything he writes will add to what God has already said because if people do not believe what God has said in His Word about demons- then they would not believe if Jesus stood right in front of them and talked to them.

Satan has never even been to hell yet. The only thing that satan knows about Hell is what he has read in the Bible. The entire time that satan has been cast out of Heaven- he has roamed throughout the earth. The Bible teaches that at the end of this age- satan and all the demons will be cast into the lake of fire- but, until then- the vast army of 200,000,000 demons are not in hell- they are locked under the great River Euphrates, and the rest are free to roam throughout the earth.

Now 200,000,000 demons sounds like a lot and it is- but you have to consider that the Apostle John said that this army of 200,000,000 only represents 1/3 of all the angels that there are. So while there are more than 200,000,000 fallen angels going to do battle with those who keep the testimony of Jesus Christ- there is an even *greater* army of at least 400,000,000 angels who did *not* fall and who stayed faithful to God, and who are sent by God to those who shall be heirs of Salvation.

So that is the origins of demons. Demons are fallen angels who joined in with the arch angel Lucifer when he rebelled against God in Heaven way before God ever made Man. Demons are fallen angels- who are supernatural beings- who are not bound by the law of gravity or physics, and so they can travel all over the world. They are spirit beings- so you cannot lock them out of your house- they will walk through the walls or rise up through the floor. Demons have no need to eat or sleep, they do not get tired, and they never need to rest.

But while they are supernatural- demons are not Omnipotent in that their power is greatly limited. They are not Sovereign either- because they can be defeated. And demons are not Omniscient- because they don't know everything.

Listen, if satan was as smart as so many people think that he is- he would have tempted Adam to eat of the Tree of Life *first*- and *then* tempted him to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That way- Adam would be sinful- but he would have lived forever.

You see, if Adam had ever eaten of the Tree of Life- he would still be alive today- but God drove him out of the garden and set cherubims all around the Tree of Life along with a flaming sword to keep fallen and sinful Man away from any access to eternal life.

Now back in **Luke 4:34**- this demon knew that Jesus was the Messiah. He didn't wonder about it at all- he knew it. He also knew that there was a time coming when Jesus would destroy all demons because this demon also said:

Have You come to destroy us?

This demon knew that there is a time when all demons and all unsaved people- along with satan himself will be cast into the lake of fire, and this demon thinks that maybe that day is that day, and so he

screams out- "**Have You come to destroy us? Is this the time when we're all going to get thrown into the lake of fire?**"

And so, the certain reality that Jesus is going to utterly destroy him and all his comrades hits this demon. The holy war is on and the demon can't restrain himself so he screams through the voice of this man. In other words- this demon actually panicked.

And that is because all demons -as fierce and as powerful as they may appear to us- literally live their entire lives in abject terror before God. They are going to spend all of eternity in hell, and yet they *cannot* repent- and they know it! Can you even begin to image the torment that must be? Knowing full well in great detail that you are doomed to spend all of eternity in a lake of fire being tormented day and night, and yet God has not granted them a heart to repent nor has He offered them forgiveness.

This is why I plead with you not to play with God. God has mercifully granted you the gift of a heart that can repent. God has given you a soft heart, a broken heart, a heart that is easily convicted and easily disturbed. We need to thank God for giving us that kind of soft heart because without a heart that can be broken and repent- nobody gets saved.

The Bible says that sin hardens the heart of Man. And every single time God deals with you about something and you rebel against Him- every time you try to push that conviction out of your mind, every time you ignore the warnings of the Word of God- your heart gets a little harder.

Please- I beg you- do not think that you can wait until you are ready to repent. The Bible says that everybody who needs forgiveness doesn't get forgiveness. Some who need forgiveness are granted forgiveness- but others who need it just as much never receive it. The difference between who gets forgiveness and who does not does not lie with Man, dear friends.

God is the only One Who grants forgiveness. And the Bible says in **Romans 9:15&16:**

15 ... "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

16 So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

The warning of Scripture is clear, my brothers and sisters- God gives Mercy to whom He will give Mercy, and who He wills- He hardens. So your ability to repent is up to God- not you- so do not trifle with God. The Bible teaches that God has not granted repentance to everybody, and demons have not been given Mercy and demons cannot repent, and, therefore, demons are forever lost- and they know this.

And that is why this demon screams out in terror- because he thinks that this day as Jesus is preaching is the day when he will be cast into hell.

But while demons *cannot* repent- you *can* repent, you *can* hear, you *can* grasp the implications of what I am saying this morning, and I pray that you will hear and I pray that you will believe and I pray that you will not be like the demons and that you will repent and receive God's great gift of Mercy this morning.

Now **James 2:19** says that the devils believe so much that they tremble- but right here- this normal fearful trembling that all demons go through every day- turned into sheer panic.

This demon knew that the holy war was on and he knew the implications of what Jesus was preaching, and so he could no longer hide, and so he exposes himself and screams in sheer panic and terror.

This demon panicked because his kingdom is being plundered and Jesus is after the soul of that man in whom that demon lives, and the demon feels the Force and the Power and the Authority of the Gospel of deliverance. Look one more time at **Luke 4:34**:

“Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

Now "Jesus of Nazareth" was the title by which Jesus was known. It's not necessarily a term of disrespect or disdain because that was His home town. Now the phrase- "**What business do we have with each other?**" is a very interesting statement- it's called in the Greek language- an idiom. Literally, it says, "what is it to us and to You?" But you can't translate idioms literally in any language. So all the lexicographers and commentators have to all eventually come back to what the demon is really saying here is:

"Why are You attacking me?" or "Why are You attacking us?"

... because this demon knew that the attack on him by Jesus was an attack on all the other demons who are in the same kingdom of darkness. So *"Why are You attacking us?"* would be a very accurate translation.

Now over in **Luke 8:28**- Jesus comes across a man possessed with demons and the man sees Jesus. And the demons cried out- they screamed, too, and the demons caused the man to fall down. And the demon says, *"What do I have to do with You, Jesus?"* exact same statement. In other words- *"Why are You attacking me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God, I beg you, do not torment me!"* that's the demon talking.

Now if you want to have an impact on demons like this- just preach the Gospel. You want to shatter the kingdom of darkness- Preach the Gospel- preach the message of Deliverance and Salvation, and demons will tremble - not because they are sacred of you- don't flatter yourself- there is not one single human being on earth that is any match at all for demons. One demon could mop the floor with hundreds of thousands of people. But even though they do not fear Man- every single demon is completely terrified of Jesus.

And this issue illustrates the sad state in the modern Church. All of the weak, and insipid, and shallow, and trivial, and man-centered preaching put together does absolutely nothing but aid and abet much of the enterprises of the kingdom of darkness. Please turn real quick to an illustration of what I am talking about here that Luke wrote- found in **The Acts 19:14-20**:

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

Demons fear Jesus and in this case they knew about God's chosen Apostle- named Paul. But there are no more Apostles on the earth today, and so all we have left is Jesus. So demons do not fear you or me or any other human being- they do not leave based on our authority or our righteousness. So you nor I can "take authority over demons". Demons fear only Jesus.

So next time you hear some self-appointed and unaccountable, so called, prophet or apostle cry out against demons and try to take authority over them based on who he is- just picture in your mind these seven little wantabes running out of this house naked and screaming because this one demon beat the fool out of all of them.

Demons do not fear that kind of ineffectual preaching. But if you want to shatter the kingdom of darkness and if you want to cause the already fearing demons to panic- then preach the glorious Gospel of God that is the Power of God unto Salvation, and preach that Gospel rightly, and preach it fully, and preach it without fear or apology, and preach it without being ashamed of it, and every single demon will literally panic because Jesus will be all in all.

So demons cannot repent- but you can. Will you come to Jesus today?

Let's come and pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.