

Mt.8.28-34 “The People’s Perspective”
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #116
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REVIEW:

Matthew adds more convincing evidence of Jesus’ messiahship & divinity.

Throughout the Gospel we find accounts of Jesus’ ability to cast out demons.

- In the wilderness Jesus demonstrated His power to resist Satan;
- Now He demonstrates His power to overcome & subdue Satan (I Jn.3.8).

✚ The Lord came into the world and destroyed the works of Satan.

✚ He will come again to establish His kingdom.

✚ After the Millennium Satan et.al. will be cast into the lake of fire (Re.20.2,7-10).

- Many N.T. Jews attempted exorcisms by means of formulas & rituals, with no success.

I. DEMONS POSSESSING vv.28-31

(1.) THE RECEPTION v.28B

Scripture does not clearly distinguish between being possessed, obsessed, or oppressed by demons.

Demons can attack men:

In the spiritual realm

In the intellectual realm

In the psychological realm

Demon domination was a common affliction in N.T. times.

We read of no account of demon possession in the city of Jerusalem.

A person who is seriously deranged by demons is likely to be considered insane in advanced societies.

Jesus never blamed a person for being either diseased or demon controlled.

(2.) THE RECOGNITION BY THE DEMONS v.29

Demons showed that they immediately recognized who Jesus was.

Demons are powerless to do anything but bow down before Jesus.

Demons are fallen angels.

Demons knew Jesus as Messiah (Lk.4.41).

Demons tremble - recognition but not acceptance.

The supreme deceivers are also supremely self-deceived.

(3.) THE REQUEST vv.30-31

The demons looked for a way of escape - they spotted pigs in a pasture.

Jesus would not allow the demons to remain where they were.

II. THE POWER v.32

Without the Lord's armor, we cannot repel the attacks of demons especially the shield of faith (Ep.6.16).

The purpose in casting out the demons was to demonstrate Jesus' authority & power over Satan. There could be no doubt in the minds of observers as to what had happened.

III. THE PERSPECTIVE vv.33-34

Jesus was of greater concern to them than either the pigs or the two previously possessed men.

The people were not the least interested in finding out who Jesus was.

They wanted nothing to do with Him (Mk.5.14–15).

They were not angry or resentful but scared.

The sinner who knows he faces God can only see his sin, & the result is fear.

We know that they had a glimpse of the supernatural & it caused them to panic.

Here is the first opposition to Jesus recorded in the Gospels.

Their rejection of Jesus was in the form of indifference,

- ✓ the same indifference to God shown by most men throughout history—
- ✓ the indifference that wants to let God alone & to be left alone by God.

The Lord was an intrusion with whom the people did not want to be bothered.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus sent the man back to his own people - probably the very people who had asked Jesus to leave. —to testify to them of the Lord's love & mercy.