

TWO DEMON-POSSESSED MEN

SERIES: MIRACULOUS | WEEK 4 | 1.17.2021

Welcome!

Welcome! So good to see you! I'm so glad you joined; I'm so glad all of you are in this room because this is the place to come. We're living in a moment where— I mean, I'm just getting hit constantly with people are just struggling and are fearful, nervous, fatigued, just tired, and today we come to this place and we're a place that teaches the Gospel. We're in the gospel of Matthew, the gospel writer writes about the Good News of Jesus. He came to take our place. He came to die so we wouldn't have to die. He rose from the dead so that we could know that there was One who has conquered sin and death so that we can have life. And it reminds us that we don't have to be in a spot where we are discouraged.

We don't have to be in a place of fear. We don't have to be in a place of fatigue today. We can stop and go, "Wait a minute, I've gotta change my focus. I've gotta change my attention. I've gotta put it on the Gospel, the Good News, that Jesus is alive and that He is alive inside of me." And if He's not alive inside of you, if you've never heard that, if you've never met Him, my hope is before you leave here today it will be put right in front of you to a place that you'll go, "I want to meet Jesus." And my hope is that if you've been bogged down in fear and fatigue this week, that you would switch that around and that as a result of our time already today and what we're going to say here from the gospel of Matthew, is that you would leave here pumped up, encouraged, and just keeping your eyes on Jesus knowing that man, this is going to make the difference in my life.

You know, one of the things I look at in the world we live is we don't know where to look, we don't know who to talk to, we don't know where to get our information, and there's so much that we're trying to figure out. There is one place where we can find out authoritative information and it's in this Book [Bible]. There's a place where we can find pictures and stories and experiences that took place that help us understand exactly the way God would have us to handle ourselves in this moment. When we come to this Book we find the authority of God and we find God telling us how to live our lives and how to deal with the things we're dealing with today. We're not the first people to walk this path. And Jesus, as He finishes up the Sermon on the Mount, He's with a group of people and He's doing life with authority. Well, you can imagine the authority of God.

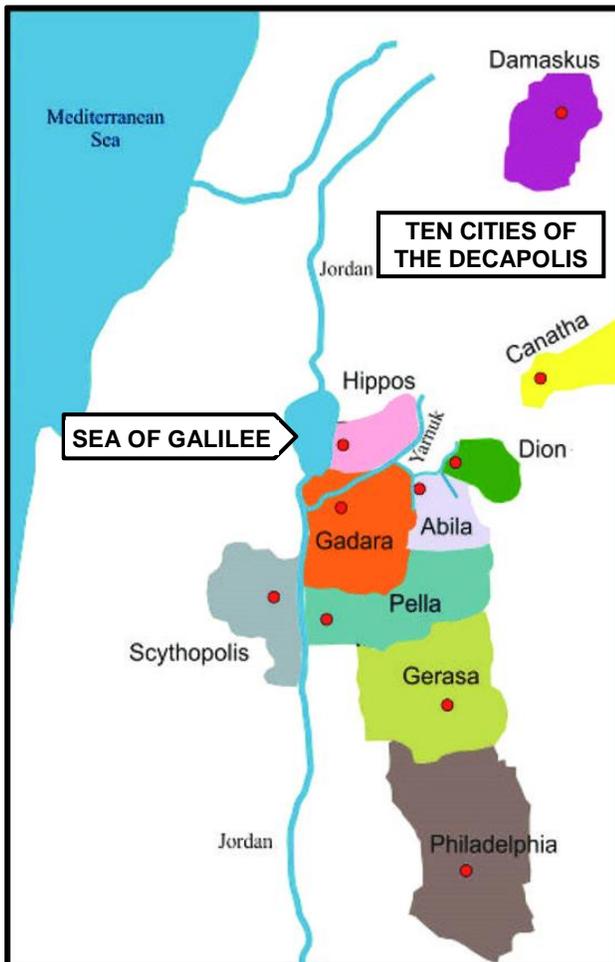
In fact, we find out and we've been finding this in this MIRACULOUS series, that Jesus has authority over diseases and sickness. Jesus has authority over the natural laws of nature. And today we're going to see Jesus speak again with authority. And He causes us to go, "I want You, Jesus. I want to put my attention on You. I want to go to the one place I know there is authority. And the Creator of the world who has made what is around us, who knows how it works, I want to put my weight and my attention on Him."



So he tells us two stories in the eighth chapter of Matthew and what sort of sets up these two stories is Jesus has been spending the day healing and ministering to the crowds, and the text tells us that they're pressing in on Him and it was getting overwhelming even to a point that He couldn't even back up, you know, having even just a little bit of space. There was no place to even go to even eat lunch. And so He gets onto a boat and on that boat, probably a boat that held about 12 people, he's on there with Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and they get on there and they push away from the shore. And we're talking about a decent-sized boat; a boat that would have held probably at least 12 people and a fair amount of fish. And they start going across the Sea of Galilee, a huge lake, to the other side, to a place called Decapolis which means "ten cities." It was a very different place, it was over there that Roman soldiers were being given land as a reward for their service and so it was a Gentile area, a very different area than they were leaving. And with these crowds pressing on wanting more healing, wanting more ministry from Jesus, He pushes away from the shore and heads out into the lake.

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And what happens next shook up fishermen who had fished their entire lives, which is what Jesus' disciples were. We're told a storm came up and that is not an abnormal thing on the Sea of Galilee, storms come up all the time and evidently they can come up suddenly and it's quite a task when they do come up. But this one was different.



Sea of Galilee storm

In fact, the wording that is given is one of—it uses the word *seismos*, you know what that means, an earthquake type of a storm that the sea is just rising up. And this boat is sounding like it is about ready to self-destruct and fall apart. And these disciples, fishermen that do this all the time, are besides themselves freaked and all of a sudden it dawns on them—where is Jesus? They look in the back and there He is sound asleep. And while the fishermen are absolutely frightful and fearful and beyond concerned thinking they are about to die any moment, they see that Jesus is asleep and sleeping.

And it's in that moment that they wake Jesus up as if He doesn't know what's going on.

Do you know the Bible is very clear that God controls the weather? So what takes place on that sea was not outside of His control. In fact, I'm thinking that it's possible Jesus is sitting there with a little rheostat just turning it up, turning it up, turning it up, and that sea just gets bigger and bigger and He's like, *Watch this*, and takes it to a level that these guys have never seen, and Jesus is just back there snoring away. They wake Him up—don't you see what's going on here, what's taking place—and here's their words:

"Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

– MATTHEW 8:25b (ESV)

I love that. It is the essence of the Gospel when we realize I can't handle this, I'm at my bottom, there's nothing I can do—God, save me! And that message is the message, I don't know that—we need to hear today. We get to that place where that rheostat has just been pressed one too high and the waves just came over the ship. The other gospels talk about it as they're being swamped, I think is the exact word, so now the water's coming in and they're feeling the ship going down. It is just too much and they cry out, "Lord, save us." And His response is very simple:

"Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?"

– MATTHEW 8:26a (ESV)

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The fishermen panic; Jesus sleeps. And Jesus responds, Mark tells us in his writing of this, Jesus stands up and looks at the storm—because, you remember, He controls the weather—and He says:

"Peace! Be still!"

– MARK 4:39 (ESV)

I want that to fall across this room this morning because I'm convinced that nothing has changed. When the narrative of our lives is that rheostat has been turned just one click higher than anyone thought was possible to handle and you find yourself in that moment where it feels like the ship is about to break out and we cry out, "Save us, Lord!" He looks out and He says, ***"Peace! Be still!"*** Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" We've said it a whole bunch of times and I'm gonna say it again today, faith over fear. Faith, the object of our faith: Jesus. Finally they get to a place—I can imagine they're trying to figure this out. They know how to do this. They've done this. They've got this solved. They've got this figured out until all of a sudden they go, "Where's God? Where's Jesus?" And all of a sudden they have to turn from what has caused them fear, the thing that they can normally control, to faith in Jesus. Faith over fear.

**Faith
over
Fear**

Hey, can I suggest this today—and I've thought about whether I want to say this today because I might as well just light up some people. I don't care. I'm just tired of it. What about theology over science? The science said the boat was about to break up. The science said it was about to sink, it was about to go down. The laws of nature were irrefutable in that moment. There was only one place to turn—to Jesus, to God. That's the study of God – theology. To God Himself, God over science, over the laws of nature. He controls the laws of nature. He's the One who stood up and said, ***"Peace! Be still!"*** But we continue to put our faith in all the other levers of power in our time. I don't know what the levers of power were in that boat, but fishermen, I mean, they've done that their whole lives. They knew what the levers of power were. They were the very best of the best of the best of handling the storms on that lake. That was the only lake they had fished on. That was the only lake they knew; they knew that thing inside and out. Trust us... until they realize they can't do it.

You see, this is why we're always, always talking about Jesus here. They were safe as long as they were with Jesus, but in the middle of the storm they forgot Jesus. So that's why we say it's all about Jesus. There's only one Jesus. And we're not talking about some concept of a higher power. Stop it! We're not talking about some sort of metaphorical presence that's with us in Jesus. We are talking about the God of creation who came in the flesh, who died on the cross, who came victorious over death. The thing that everyone is scared of in our moment—scared to die, fearful of death. Fatigued by having all this painted picture of death in front of us. But no one proclaiming that there is One who has come who was victorious over death and offers us victory over death that we can put all our attention on this morning. [APPLAUSE] And when we finally get to a place that we realize this ship is being swamped and all the charts are against us, finally we go, "Oh, Jesus."

And I am just going to say I am not convinced that we as a church have come to that place in our society yet. We haven't proclaimed out who's gonna look to Jesus, who's gonna call upon Jesus. I tell you, and it's what I love about you all coming here, it's why I love you joining us online, it's what I love about David and the team have just brought us to—they brought us to faith in Jesus—it's all about Jesus. And if He is to be trusted, now is the time to trust Him. We have a world living, talking about death. The Bible says, ***"the wages of sin is death."***¹ We all are going to die. It is a given. It is a law of nature.

¹ Romans 6:23 (ESV): *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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But there is One—and it's the Good News—who has overcome that. And so there is a moment in all the fear and the fatigue that we finally turn around and look in the ship and see Jesus and we call upon His Name and we cry out as they did there, "Lord, save us." Can we cry out together: Jesus. [TWO PEOPLE IN AUDIENCE: "JESUS"] Come on, there's more than two of you. [LAUGHTER] And I'm going to just tell you it's more than this pep rally thing; it's more than just something that you get pumped up in this room. I'm actually a little disappointed it hasn't been more of a pep rally along that line. I'd love to get us pumped up and get us excited in this room because we've gotta start getting that into our head so that we remember it during the week. [MAN IN AUDIENCE: "YES! YES!"] But He's gotta become the object of our worship. He's got to become the object of our attention. He's got to be first. And I believe this story in the boat is a reminder to us in this moment. Hey, what about the second story I'm going to tell you—things are going to get worse. And this moment in the boat is to remind us and to get us grounded on where we need to put our attention and our focus on Jesus and none other. [APPLAUSE]

So He gets to the other side, they dock, they get out of the boat—the book of Mark, when Mark's telling about it, it sounds like immediately this happens. I don't know if it's one of those things, you know, I try to picture what the terrain looked like there. You know, you get out of the boat, I mean, you get out and you walk up a little trail and it appears that as soon as they start walking up a little trail evidently there's a cemetery off to their side and out of this cemetery comes running—you picture the scariest movie that's out there—coming out of this cemetery comes running a naked dude. In fact, Matthew tells us two naked dudes, and they're out of their mind, unhinged, screaming and hollering. Mark says one guy is cutting himself [MARK 5:5].

It says that these guys are incredibly strong; that in the past they had tried to chain them up with chains and they just were so strong they burst those chains open. We're talking about, Matthew tells us, two demon-possessed guys come yelling and screaming at them as they come out of that boat. It's as if that storm was not enough; you're exhausted, you just wish – *Could we just sit alongside the water, can we pitch our tent, can we have some fish, can we have a little bit of lunch, could we just have a grilled cheese sandwich or something, just have a moment of calm?* And



Two demon-possessed men met him
Matthew 8:28

all of a sudden these demon-possessed guys come out of nowhere screaming and hollering. They had lived in the cemetery; what they were saying was spoken of by the power of demons.

By the way, I'm going to take us time out for just a moment. We mentioned a minute ago that as Jesus speaks with authority, He speaks with authority over sickness and death. He speaks with authority over the laws of nature. And now He's going to speak with authority over the spiritual realm. As I read this story I am reminded there is more going on than what is seen with the eyes. And while we're about



ready to see a visible representation of it as two men that are out of their mind, demon-possessed, in the freakiest, scariest way presented, I believe what Jesus is wanting to let us know is that there is a spiritual realm that is very active and very involved, and that He – Jesus – is in control of that spiritual realm. He has authority over the spiritual realm.

Angels, angels created by God. You'll remember how the story goes, how the facts are listed out. Lucifer, the most beautiful of the angels, becomes prideful and falls, and he falls with a third of the

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angels. These become demons. And in the book of Matthew, and I was fascinated in the marvelous message we were a part of last week, even there in the midst of that story of healing there was a discussion of demons. You start reading through Matthew, there are demons all throughout this book mentioned that Jesus is having to deal with. I don't know about you, when was the last time you came face to face with a demon? When was the last time you had a discussion about demonic entities, outside of it being thrown up on your screen on a video or this kind of stuff just sort of one of those things meant as entertainment—which I think is exactly what Satan's wanting to do. Turn himself into some "entertainment," then we don't see it as something desperately evil and desperately wicked, but rather it's just sort of a part of our lives. God help us.

Second Corinthians Chapter 11² calls Satan an "angel of light." He comes across as being fine; it doesn't picture him with the horns and the forked tail or the pitchfork. Angel of light, looking like everything is fine. I want us to hear this this morning that when we talk about demonic presences, oftentimes it does not look as what we would intend it to look like and it comes in all different forms. Matthew 25 tells us what the destiny of these demons are, they're losers, and Matthew 25 tells us that ultimately they end up in the lake of fire with Satan. But understand in this time they are extremely active. They oppress the thoughts of mankind, they spread false information and activities, and they possess and they have control over people. In fact, the book of Daniel, go look at Chapter 10; Michael, the archangel, it's very clear that when dealing with a government he was actually held up because of demonic activity.³



And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

– 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14

Demonic activity rule in our governmental situations even to this day. You see, we don't think like this. You say [POINTING RIGHT], "That's a bad guy, [POINTING LEFT] that's a bad guy. [LOOKS TO HIS RIGHT] There's not good people. [POINTS FORWARD] That person is not honest." And what we forget is there is spiritual wickedness happening in high places. There is spiritual wickedness going on around us and, um, to recognize we are at war. We're not in peace time and there is a battle that is raging.

I think that out on that sea when that storm kicked up and when Jesus popped that into a level that they had never seen before, it was boot camp. It was training time to say, "Listen, we're just beginning. We've got some stuff we've gotta face here in a minute. I need you to understand when you turn to Me, I can bring peace. When you don't turn to Me, the boat's going up, it's cracking up, it's going down. You've got to turn to Me."

So they get off the boat and they're immediately face to face with these demonic – it said they had been possessed with demons for a long time. The people of the area had tried to chain them up. They were scared to death of them. These guys are naked, they're coming out of tombs. Picture a worse scenario and a worse picture than this; cutting themselves, involved in self-destruction. Think about what these guys had lost. There was a day they were normal people, they had families, they had wives, they had houses, and yet something had come into their lives, they *allowed* something in that to this point now they had gone so far and Satan had stolen so much from them.

² 2 Corinthians 11:14 (ESV): *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

³ Daniel 10:13-14 (ESV), [the angel Gabriel speaking]: *"The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."*

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We like to relegate this kind of stuff to mythical stories, but in point of fact, this is real life. Here's a grid to put this through in real life. How do you know if you're seeing it, if they're coming as an angel of light, how do we know for certain? If you've ever been to some foreign countries you've seen witchcraft, you've seen demonic behavior and activities, and yet you come to America and you don't see that. Is it possible that it's not happening here, or is it possible that we've become so used to it here and we've medicated for it and we've done all sorts of stuff to hide it and put it away that we're not seeing it, but actually it is extremely real. John 10:10 says that the enemy comes to steal, to kill, and destroy:

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.*

– JOHN 10:10a (ESV)

Any time you see something being stolen, you see your peace being stolen and you see anxiety coming into your life, you see your identity being stolen. I mean, my goodness, that's what all this gender identity is all about, to try to steal. God says back in Genesis⁴ that God made them and made their gender, man and

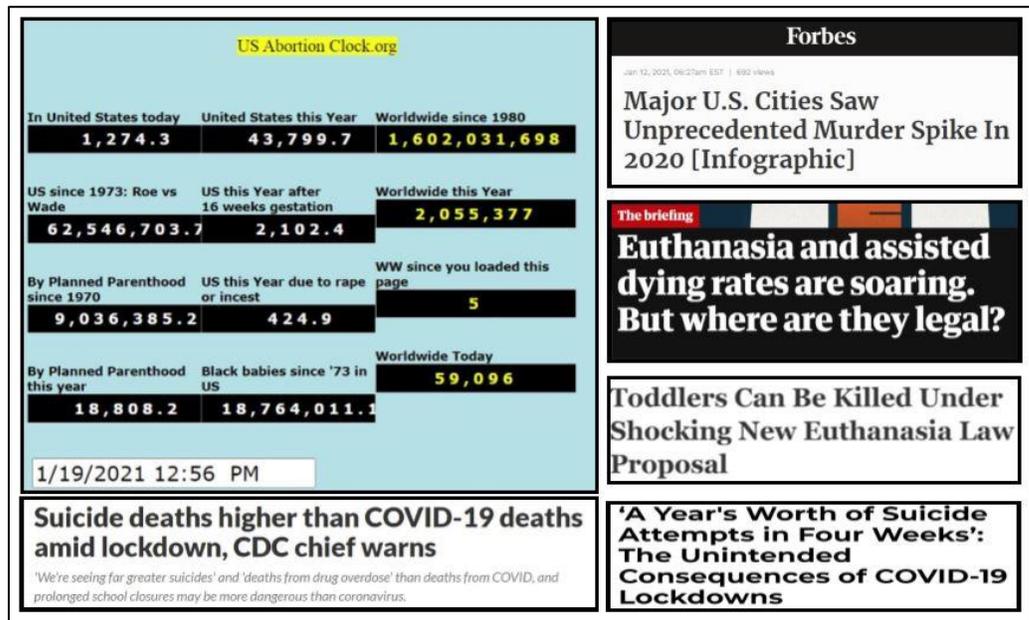
woman. But we want to steal that—that's satanic. He comes to kill. When you see the amount of murders in our world, you see the abortions in our world, you see the euthanasia taking place, you see war, you see in front of you movies that glorify death, video games that do that, and even to this moment what's taking place with COVID, where death – death is

brought out in front of us. He's out to kill us. That's why we see so much suicide among our young people. We've come to think, "Well, it's just normal and it's just a hard life that we're living." Satan is very active in taking away life.

And then finally, the idea of destruction. Satan is out to seek to destroy anything he can get his hands on—to destroy the family unit, to destroy your marriage, to destroy your relationships, to destroy your health, to destroy anything that comes around. Revelation Chapter 12, verse 10, says that Satan is out to accuse us day and night. He wants us gone.

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,*

"It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown



⁴ Genesis 1:27 (NLT): So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."

– REVELATION 12:10-12 (ESV)

Every great failure, every great torment, every great oppression and condemnation, the demonic realm has no need to sleep, has no need to eat, and is always at it, always at after us, always after our world because they know they're time is short. Revelation made it clear, I already explained that to you, that they're going to end up in the lake of fire, and so they're active and aware and going at trying to destroy us today.

When this demon sees Jesus—by the way, Mark talks about it and asks, you know, "What's your name?" He says, "Legion."

⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."

– MARK 5:9 (ESV)

It's a military term which describes, what I've read, something like 6 to 8,000 troops.⁵ When this demon responds, "I'm Legion," it may mean that this guy has in him 6 to 8,000 demons in him. This demonic possession is real, and we need to step back and say: Where is that coming into lives today? What could happen to allow that to come into a life?

As soon as Jesus shows up listen to what happens here:

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

– MATTHEW 8:28-29 (ESV)

Do you realize at this point Jesus hasn't said a word? Jesus just gets out of the boat and starts walking up. I just took too long to explain to you a very ugly, dark situation, and these demons, their response is: "Have you come to torment us?" The demons, when they see Jesus, are horrified and scared. They're like, "Don't send us to Hell now." They know where they're headed. They know what the end-run of all of this is. Don't send us to Hell now, don't get rid of us. Instead they suggest that Jesus cast them into a herd of pigs that are there, and those pigs go down over the mountainside there by the water and they drown themselves.

³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." ³² And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.

– MATTHEW 8:30-32 (ESV)



⁵ See <https://www.gotquestions.org/demon-Legion.html> for further discussion about legion.

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These demons – at the Name of Jesus – panicked. What we see in this moment is that at the Name of Jesus, He sets two men in bondage free. In fact, I love Luke Chapter 11, verse 20, when it's talking about Jesus casting out demons. He uses a phrase that's only used one other time back in the book of Exodus, it says he drove them out *"by the finger of God."*⁶

²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

– LUKE 11:20 (ESV)

It is the power of God that drives out demons. He casts them into a herd of pigs. My research of that time was that there was a massive religious activity going on there in those ten cities called The Decapolis at that time, where they were sacrificing pigs. Pigs were part of what I would call their religious industrial complex. You know, religion is big business. And whenever you take it away from being about Jesus, it becomes about everything else. It becomes about money. And what we see in this story is that the people of the city came out and they had a fit.

³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

– MATTHEW 8:33-34 (ESV)

Are you kidding me? These scary, demoniacs coming out of the cemetery had been haunting them for so long and now they have a fit and they tell Jesus, "You get out of here." Why? Because He had gotten in the way of their religion, of their god – the money. The demons had become their god. The Scripture tells us if you put your worship on anything else other than Jesus, it is not God Himself that you're worshipping, it is a demon, and they love their demons.⁷

Those demoniacs, they come to Jesus. *It's Jesus, can we go with You? Wow! We want to be with You.* They believe. They've been freed. Their whole life has been stolen from them, their families, their homes, their livelihoods have been stolen from them by the one in John 10:10 who seeks to destroy and to kill. *Can we go with You* – they recognize who He is. Jesus responded to them and He says to them, "Listen, I want you to go out and tell everyone you can what Jesus did for you."

¹⁸ As he [Jesus] was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

– MARK 5:18-20 (ESV)

Can you imagine, can you imagine the story they had to tell?

Share just a few things as we end. John, 1st John Chapter 4, verse 4, this week again I re-read the book of 1st John. If anything I've said to you today scares you, if anything I've said to you today is burdening you down, my prescription to you this week would be read 1st John. It's a real quick read, you can read

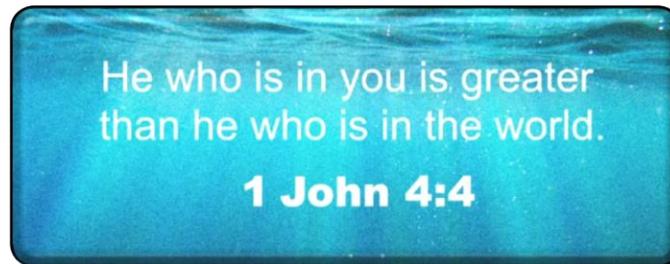
⁶ Cross references for "the finger of God": Exodus 8:19, 31:18, and Deuteronomy 9:10

⁷ See Revelation 9:20

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it, you can read it over, you can read it over and over and over again. I think it will help you just a ton. John was really, really close to Jesus, knew the heart of Jesus, and John says:



And so I shared with you some heavy-duty stuff, I mean, it feels a little bit like, "Wow, this is scary." And I get it, and I want you, I want you to be aware of it. I want you to realize why some things are going on around you that are going on around you, maybe even in this moment. I mean, you read through the book of Matthew and just look every time demons are mentioned and what it is that they are involved in. You might start saying some of the things that you see in your world are very much correlated with that.

I don't believe for a moment that a Christian can be possessed by a demon, there's no way the Holy Spirit and a demon can live together. But we *do know* in the text that I read to you there a moment ago that demons are influencing the thoughts of people. We also know there are people around us that aren't believers that demons have possessed. But we can know and we can have the confidence today that He – Jesus – who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. It is Jesus who can calm the storms. It is Jesus that will hold out His hands over you and say, "Peace! Be still!" I want to encourage you on this.

I meet a lot of these people binding Satan and calling out demons and yelling at Satan—quit talking to Satan, guys! What's up with that?! Here's what we need to be doing: Call out on the Name of Jesus. Have the Name of Jesus out there in front of you. Have the Name of Jesus front and center of your world. Have the Name of Jesus on your lips. Have the Name of Jesus on worship songs; find the worship songs that sing about the Name of Jesus. There are ones out there that aren't true worship songs; how you're okay and you're fine and God's good and everything's nice. Find the songs that lift up the Name of Jesus and play them through your house all the time. What we find in Scripture is Satan cannot stand the Name of Jesus. He will run and he'll flee.

In fact, I'm going to ask the worship team to sing a song and lead us in this song, I think it's called the "Great I AM." Am I close on that? The Great I AM.¹ Jesus is the great I AM. And when we sing this song it gets to this place where it says that if we'll shout out the Name of Jesus, we put Jesus first and we put Him foremost, the demons will run and flee it says at the mention of His Name. And I don't know if when we've sang in the past that you really understood where that was going or what the thought process is. Obviously Jesus is stronger than Satan, but as we studied this today, think of turning in that boat, you're in the middle of fear and fatigue, "Jesus, help me!"

And what if, what if we've gone a step further and this isn't just that the laws of nature have gotten out of control at the moment and I need to call on Jesus, death is staring me in the face and I need to call on Jesus, WHAT IF the laws of the spiritual world, that there is a spiritual battle going on—what if that has come to a place that I'm being attacked by that? Then I need to shout out the Name above every other name, the great I AM. We can't even add a word after that because He is. He says I AM.

Oh, thank John 10:10 [APPLAUSE].

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¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

– JOHN 10:10 (ESV)

I gotta say one more thing because it's been on my heart all week, I can't help but talk about it. The Old Testament of our Bible, Moses is about ready to cross the Red Sea. He tells the people on that day, "Listen, I don't want you to be fearful. There's going to be a bunch of things that are going to happen today and they're going to scare the living daylight out of you." And it happened, I mean, when Pharaoh and his armies started coming down in there thinking that sea was open for him, they had to be scared out of their minds. He says, "Listen, I don't want you to fear, but I want you to trust in the salvation of our God."

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly.

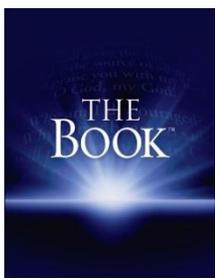
¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

– EXODUS 14:10 & 13-14 (ESV)

And that's why we come here to be pumped up today. Yeah, there's a battle, and yes, there's darkness and yes, there's demons, and yes, those demons would like to influence you, would like to mess with our world and are messing up our world, but I'm here today to proclaim the salvation of our great God and King and YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FEARFUL. And there's no need to be fatigued, your battle has been won. The victory is secure. [APPLAUSE]

But many of us are living as if we don't believe that. We believe we've been defeated, and we're just as fearful as everyone else, and we're just as fatigued as everyone else, and we're just as defeated as everyone else. Rather than being overcomers, we've been overcome. We act like we don't have a Jesus. We act like we can't turn to Him and say, "Save me!"

One other thing, and again, Deuteronomy, I believe it's Chapter 28, they're in the Promised Land.



This authority still matters in 2021

Moses is talking to the people and giving them some instructions, and he says this: I want you to be really, really, really careful to obey the commands of the Lord. You see, when we do things God's way, God's way is always right and always better. When we refuse to do things God's way and we come to this place where we don't think this authority [Bible] matters anymore, it gives Satan an opportunity. The Scripture says do not give the devil an opportunity.⁸ And so there comes a point in our lives where we have to say, "Am I gonna step up, am I gonna step into this?" If you look at it later on today, Deuteronomy 28,⁹ it's in that passage that Moses explains, he goes if you do this, you're going to really avoid a lot of the difficult things, and he even goes so far as to say the diseases of the Egyptians.

Don't think that this all isn't a spiritual battle. But remember the One who has conquered death, the One who has overcome the grave to show us that if He overcame the grave, you can overcome the grave. The One who has paid your price, who has taken your place in death, who loves you, who loves you,

⁸ Ephesians 4:27 (ESV): *and give no opportunity to the devil.*

⁹ Deuteronomy Chapter 28 – Blessings for Obedience, Curses for Disobedience (see also Chapter 27)

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who loves you. And here's what I'm gonna ask you to do. I'm gonna stop right there. I'm gonna ask the team to lead us in a song and the first part of this song just talks about the great I AM, but there comes a moment it starts calling out the Name of Jesus and it proclaims that at the Name of Jesus – because I remember it's in the song – demons will run and hide. And I want us to be victorious in this room.

I want to give you this opportunity [HE DEEPLY INHALES & EXHALES] – we need to let this go. We need to claim Jesus. We need to put our focus and attention on Him. And sometimes I think there's something physical that needs to happen; we need to make a declaration: As for me and my house we will serve the Lord. As for me and my house Jesus will be #1. I'm gonna put Jesus on my lips. I'm taking that profanity off my lips; I'm putting Jesus on my lips. I'm putting Jesus in my home. I'm putting His Word in my home. I'm going to play Him through my house.

Maybe you're in a situation where you need to claim the Name of Jesus over your home, over your marriage, over the things that have been destroyed, over the things that are being taken away, and you're wondering is there some spiritual thing involved in this. I want you to just come out of your seat at that moment when we start singing the demons will run and hide, I want you to just come out of your seats, I want you to lift up your hands and call out the Name of Jesus. You with me on that?

Stand up, church, let's sing.

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Calvary Fellowship Website: <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/watch>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/6UezS7J3ljw>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/cfdowningtown/jesus-has-power-over-the-spirit-world-11721>

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KEYWORDS: fear, fatigue, Jesus, authority, faith, demons, kill, destroy, save

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END NOTE

¹ Lyrics obtained from <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/phillipsraigdean/greatiam.html>

"Great I AM"

by Phillips, Craig & Dean

I want to be close, close to Your side
So Heaven is real and death is a lie
I want to hear voices of angels above
Singing as one

[Chorus:]

Hallelujah, holy, holy
God Almighty, the great I AM
Who is worthy, none beside Thee
God Almighty, the great I AM

I want to be near, near to Your heart
Loving the world and hating the dark
I want to see dry bones living again
Singing as one

[Chorus]

The great I AM

The mountains shake before You the demons run and flee
At the mention of Your name King of Majesty
There is no power in hell
Or any who can stand
Before the power and the presence of the great I AM

The great I AM the great I AM yeah

[Chorus x2]

The great I AM
The great I AM
The great I AM