

THE EXORCIST

Mark 5:1 - 19

INTRODUCTION:

Hal Lindsey wrote
Billy Graham once said the Devil is alive and kicking.

During the past months we have seen the evidence of this as the Devil and demons have been portrayed on the screen.

The new film was released just in time for Christmas, for the rush. And there have been many reviews, much publicity, more so than for any other film. It has received awards in Hollywood.

People stand 6-8 hours in line to see the film and then many leave before it is over. Ushers in many theatres where the film is shown carry smelling salts to revive those who faint and to help those who have nausea - which is another common experience.

People have spent at least \$10 million dollars to see the Devil possess a 12 year old girl. They pay \$3.00 for the tickets.

Now the real interest of the film lies in the horror of it - which is a supposition that demons' possession exists. And that through exorcism the expelling of the evil spirit is necessary. The word means to drive off an evil spirit, by the use of a divine means. Such an idea as this has been widely believed in for years. There are very few records, however, that have been kept of this.

There are those who have believed in the obsession of demons in his

There was one case in California, Dale City - where a family was exorcised. In 1972 - they moved twice. They claimed the demons set fire to chairs, towels, wall paper, threw objects, choked the couple, and ate part of a sandwich. The only time they have relief was between 4 and 6 A. M. And they had a Catholic priest who performed a rite of 27 pages of prayers and supplications, for the demons to depart and never return again.

Now this present film craze has been labeled even by some Catholics as unChristian and unrealistic, and a potentially harmful film.

In the film the little girl under goes a horrible change by witchcraft and magic. And the film leaves the impression that the priest and not God, is the proper one to extract evil from an individual. From this standpoint, it obscures the Christian message. This bit of fate is likely to create a great interest or craze for this among people. It could be very harmful. They say that there are already counseling problems with teen-agers, and others who have seen the film. And many of these claim they have been possessed of Satan himself.

There are already people practicing this - a woman and her daughter were swindled out of \$500 by a person who claimed to have this very power.

The horrifying experience must be damaging to any individual. One young person who went to see it said she pulled her coat over her head half way through the movie. Others have gone to see if it is just as scary as they say it is. One woman rushed out of a theatre here in Norfolk, and in the lobby said - "let me out of this place, I'm going insane".

Others rushed for the rest room and a mother stood in the back with a baby on her hip saying she wasn't going to sit down there - it was too frightening.

However, this sort of thing fits right in with Satanism as churches are now being dedicated to Satan worship, all over the country.

The film that had a catchie title, "The Devil's Doorway" - which actually centered around Satan. Also the story Rosemary's Baby is the trend toward Satan's worship, in which Mira Farrow accepts to her bossom the child that was implanted in her by the Devil. And at the close, the witch leader triumphantly cries, "God is dead" - and Satan lives. The year is one - the first year of our Lord. The year is one - God is done.

Now that film was a box office hit. And it brought in \$40 million. And became one of the top 50 money makers of all time.

On Easter Weekend, 1970 - 5000 Satan worshippers gathered in Chicago to celebrate the rise of the Devil. Early in 1971, 450 ministers of Satan were ordained in one week in a small city in the North West. Now this is a world-wide movement. And it goes way back - many years ago, in 1875 Crowley was titled as the wickedest man in the world. He was born in Britain to a British brewer. His parents were converted to Christianity. But his mother called him the great beast - prophesied in the book of Revelation. That he made a pack with Satan and wrote poetry to murderers. And he called Queen Victoria dirty names. He seduced a house maid, and played around with homosexuality. He wrote of phonographic poems. And his theory was to do what thou wilt - and that's the whole law. And he called God a figure of Jewish methology. He felt that sex was a real part of his religion. And at the age of 72 he died in a cheap boarding house with his body wasting - crying for drugs to kill his pain.

The best known promoter of the worship of Satan today is Anton La Vey. He has tried to shock people. And he has about 10,000 active members in his church. And

thousands more in other countries. He was born in 1930 - a Russian-Romanian ancestry. Dropped out of high school, joined the circus, fed the lions. And then began to study this occult. And eventually started in 1966 - he shaved his head, grew a beard, and announced the formation of the church of Satan. So he had a temple, he said, of glorious indulgence that would be fun for people. But the main purpose was to get a group of like minded individuals and to combine their energies in this dark type of brutal religion. He has a Satanic Bible. He has a collection of 50 people in it. He said we hold Satan as a symbolic personal Saviour, who takes care of the flesh and the carnal things. We literally want to give the Devil his dues. There has never been a religion before that has given him credit. When he appeared on the Johnny Carson Show he worn a horned hood and had a ceremonial magic sword and shocked the audience when he said that his church altar was alive and naked woman. To symbolize the pleasures of the flesh. And he has a tremendous income. But in 3 years time California alone reported more than 100 murders that have somehow been related to this cult involved. The Manson murders, the Sirhan, and the Zodiac killer. In distant places like in Miami, Florida. In New Jersey. In 1970 a Devil worshipping pack of young people killed a gas station attendant, a school teacher, mother of five children. The following month they murdered another pair of Satan cultists. A Montana social worker in Yellow Stone Park - hacked his body in six pieces. And then ate his heart. When Manson was interview following his arrest - he claimed all of my women are witches.

Now it is possible for a Christian to be demon influenced and demon powered. And demon led astray - but never to be 100% under demon control. Now God has poured out his spirit upon all the flesh. Man has an appetite for God. But this is what is happening today. Men are (uninformed) about the Gospel. They do not know about the Gospel. And they are confused, bewildered, and frustrated.

And Satan is a counterfeiter. They have this church that has a false plan of

salvation. False Scripture they offer. They try to counterfeit everything that Jesus has come to offer. And they say this is real. And this sort of stuff is spreading. It is in Europe, England, and more people are practicing witchcraft and attending Satan churches. In 1965 in McCall's Magazine said there were only 10% of all Americans that believed in the Devil. Today, there are 65% who believe in the Devil. The Bible says the Devil is a person. He is not just a spirit and an influence - he is real.

In New York City they opened up a store for the sale of articles you could use in the practice of witchcraft. You can buy a bottle of dried bats blood or the largest style of genuine wolf fangs. Now Satan worshippers are all across this country.

Now what are the signs that an individual is possessed by the Devil and by Demons? How can we know that an individual has been influenced by this. There are many signs. And I want to give you some of those as found in our Scripture for today.

But first let me say a word about what the Bible has to say about Devils and Demons. You can't interpret Devils and Demons by this film. These lude people are making money out of it. Now the word Satan comes from a Greek word, Diabolos. The word devils or demons - comes from diamonia. Now the Bible teaches that demons are capable of entering and controlling people. They are spoken of as unclean, violent, vicious.

Now all people who are outside of Christ are in danger of demons. And they will harrass Christians after their conversion. How do I know this. Eph. 6:12. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Jesus and his disciples often cast out demons. Peter was addressing a group and said, be on the alert. "Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion - he prowls about looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, be firm in your faith." (1 Peter 5:8.)

James in commenting on this subject - Chapter 4 - Verse 7, "be submissive unto God - stand up to the Devil, and he will turn and run."

Paul - 2 Cor. 11:14-15 - Said the Devil is a trickie attack person. Satan himself parades as an angel of light. And it is therefore a simple thing for his agents to go about as agents of good.

So the pressure is on - the Bible says. The Devil has some supernatural power but he doesn't have total power. And Satan engages us in a spiritual warfare.

Now to understand more about this, we are going to look about this man in Mark 5 - of Gadara. And this man had been a long time with the trouble of the Demons. This unclean spirit that had been implanted in him.

Now when he is transformed in the power of Christ - it says that he was in his right mind.

Satan can affect the person's mind. Dearrangement - it is hard for Americans today to maintain a balanced mind. It may be because of some Satanic activity. It does not mean that everybody that is mentally dearranged is possessed by demons. However, I believe that Satan can influence people who yield their lives to lusts, and drugs, and alcohol. And it will effect their minds eventually.

The Devil will also attack people morally. The man that Jesus met, wore no clothes. He went naked through the cemetery. And this is something of a craze today

for nudity. Movies, magazines, nudists camps, pop festivals. This is the new style of life. The man of Gadara did it because the Devil got into him. He pulled his clothes off. He could take the chains loose. He cut abuse his body by cutting himself with stones.

Now when you find yourself abusing yourself and not protecting your body. When you get out and you main line drugs - you are pushing yourself towards destruction. When you give your body to sex, drunkenness, this is a slow suicide for you and your Devil promotes anything that ultimately destroys you.

So this man was all out of control until God chained the Devil. And man cannot control himself. He must be controlled by Jesus Christ. So the Devil compelled him to live in the cemetery. He lived with the dead - and that's what the Bible says about you in Eph. 2:1. You were dead in trespasses and in sin.

Now let us look and pay close attention to this story. It must have happened late in the evening. Before dark or dusk. It is a weird and frightening story. Jesus and his friends - you know the lake of Galilee is 13 miles long, 8 miles wide at the widest point. They had made the journey. They encountered a storm. And they had reached land. And the place they landed - there were many caves and limestone rocks. And these caves were used as tombs, in which bodies were layed. At the best of times, it was a grim place. Now out of the tombs came this man - Demon possessed. It was a fitting place for him - demons. They believed lived in the woods, the dark and desolate places. And so they also had the idea that sleep in an empty house was dangerous - because some demon might come. Now this was a serious case and Jesus used a method by telling the demon to come. And then asked what the demon's name was and discover who he was. And it was more than one demon in this man - the word legend here speaks of the terror and is inside him. It is a terrible experience that this man had of many demons, driving him. There

was a herd of swine grazing on the hillside and the demons asked for leave and they entered the hogs and they plunged down the steep slope into the sea. Now this was the very proof that this man had need. Now I want to give you five things - let's us look at five things about this man, who was demon possessed.

I. HE WAS UNCLEAN

The Bible leads us to believe that he was dirty. There are signs that things are Christian. And there are signs that things are not Christian. And one of the signs is that there is righteousness and cleanness in a Christian. But where there is devilment - there is a sign of uncleanness. Now one of the signs of Christianity is that when a man belongs to Jesus is clean.

Everything about purity and whiteness, holiness, cleanness - has to deal with a Christian. His robe is white.

Now everything about the devil is dirty. One of the signs that a man is under the control of demons is he is obsessed with dirtiness. He likes to be where it is unclean. Now a Christian may stumble in the pig pen but he doesn't like it. He is not going to stay there because it is not his nature. He will get out of there.

But an unsaved man will fall into the pig pen. He will get down in sex and drunkardness, filth, and dirty stories, and night clubs, and booze it up. He likes to gamble, he likes to run around with women. He likes to live like the Devil wants him to live. He is just unclean.

Now this is in his nature. This is the thing that happens to him. And he is like a calf in a hail storm. He is lost. He doesn't know where he is going or where

he is headed. Because of the unclean spirit.

Now it is a shame that we have such an open cesspool in this country. And in some foreign countries, the open cesspools run right along the sidewalks. And it is tragic that we have moral cesspools in our own city and in our own country. And these things ought to be shut down. But many times Christians go in there.

Now an unclean spirit chooses an unclean place. And the evil spirit is in the master he follows. And by their fruits ye shall know them. So that is the first thing.

II. HE ABIDES WHERE THERE IS DEATH.

The man filled with demons - not only unclean but he dwells among the dead.

The second thing then, he abides where there is death. He dwelt among the tombs - among the dead. He hangs out in the graveyard.

That would say to us that he does not like to go to church. He does not enjoy Sunday School. He would rather be out in the graveyard.

Now the Bible says in Psalms - we are the living among the dead. Now by our actions but by our habits. We must live among the spiritually dead in the world. But to live among them - to be a witness to them - to love them and to redeem them. But to enjoy this and make this our habit to live this kind of life and to stay there is a very different thing.

people. Now some folks do not want to hear a sermon. Or they would not want to hear some one witness about Jesus. They do not love the things of God. They do not want to hear someone sing a hymn of praise to God. Now they had much rather go to a Rock Concert, than to come and hear "Amazing Grace" on Sunday night. They are much more at home with the spiritually dead.

III. HE WAS A VIOLENT MAN

The Bible says that not only was this man unclean - but dwelt in the tombs. But he was very hard to restrain. He was critical. He was a trouble maker. He was a mean man.

I read somewhere where somebody had a Bible class in their church for these type of folks - who always wanted to kick up a fuss. This man always liked to be in a fuss. He didn't like the things to be quiet and normal. He didn't like calm and reasoning. He liked to fight.

You know sometimes there are preachers and church members - they are the same way. They think that the only way to carry on the Gospel is to fight somebody. They want to get in a fight. Now I don't believe that at all. I remember that Jesus had to face Satan. And when Satan came in, he lifted up the "word of God" to him. So when Satan comes to you - you have the "cross". Now people are just naturally basically mean.

You pull up to a stop sign - and you take a couple inches of some body else's space, and they are ready to kill you. In this gas war which we have had, people

scrape cars and their tempers get short. And they are mean and short tempered because the line doesn't move just like they think it ought to move. And they are going to cut in on somebody. I heard this week about a man sitting in line for a couple hours or so - and when his turn came - some lady wheeled around and came up from the other way and backed her car up to the tank in front of him. It made him angry. And of course, he told her if she didn't move that car - he was going to ram the rear-end. People certainly are mean.

Now Jesus, in the Bible, says the way of the transgressors are hard. It is darkness within, and without, that causes people to be violent. It is a matter of hopelessness.

*The Exorcist - Fainting (Berkly-Cal) 2-5 people faint every day in the street of Paris.
Screamings - one charged the nurses to get at Demons -
Janitors busy with wiping up vomit -*

Now this problem of violence here is nothing but the Devil. And we can pass all the morals in this country - but this is not going to change people. It will make a well ordered, disciplined, society. Until people have been changed by Christ and they get the Devil out of their lives.

IV. HE HAD A DESIRE TO BE NAKED

Now the Bible said they tried to chain this man. And he wouldn't stay chained. They tried to keep him in a house - and he wouldn't stay in. He kicked the doors down. They put him in jail and he'd break the walls down. And now it says, they put clothes on him and then he would tear them off. The people were always trying to get him to change his habits. What we would say today is - they were reforming him. Say, you take a man - put him in a new house, give him a new job, and that didn't make any difference. It didn't do him any good. Something was wrong with the

man on the inside - he always wanted to get free of everything.

V. 15 - Tells us that when this man had changed - he was very quiet and he had his clothes on, and he was thinking straight and he was not afraid anymore. People were amazed at him. When he met Jesus, he didn't desire to tear his clothes off anymore. He had a desire to put on some clothes.

Now when Jesus comes into your life - it is going to make a difference about modesty.

We wonder how far Christian women are going to go today. Now I think they ought to look nice. They ought to dress according to some of the styles of today. I don't know whether it ought to be down to the ankles or not. I'm not very sure about whether it ought to be 2 or 3" above your knees or not. But when your dress gets half way up to your neck, that's another thing. And we wonder where Christian women are going to stop. Miniskirt - makes one appeal & that is to say -

*5 of freeking
wonder - because*

1 Tim 2:9-10 - Spirit instructed body be adorned in modest apparel -

There comes a point when Christian decency and commitment to the word of God may conflict with the standards of behaviour that go on in the world.

The Exorcist - Hard core Pornography - portrays nakedness & a girl masturbating with a crucifix -

And that is where Christ has a word for you. You don't always have to be like everybody else. In the Garden of Eden, they really didn't know that they didn't have their clothes on. But as soon as they sinned - God came and put some clothes on them.

Now when a person gets right with God, the turmoil and the conflict are going to disappear. But when a person is not right with God, he is going to have conflict. He is going to be crying within himself and he is going to be longing. But with the

times change his place of living. And often, he will change his job. And he will get out of this confusion. When he finds Christ deep down in his heart - he has all the issues of life settled for him.

V. HE WAS CONTROLLED BY ANOTHER SPIRIT

Now we have said this man was unclean. He dwelt where there is death. He was violent. He desired to be naked. Now we say that he was controlled by another spirit - not his own. So a person demon possessed, possessed of the Devil, is going to be under the control of some other spirit.

Now Jesus did not talk to the man at this point. It really wouldn't have done much good. The man didn't have much ability to speak for himself. He had given himself so completely to the Devil - that the Devil had taken charge.

Paul, Romans 6, says we ought to be careful because we yield ourselves to be servants of the one we serve.

And this is where mothers and daddy's ought to come in about their children in Sunday School. And putting them there when they are not there themselves. And they aren't in church. Now when you do this - you are turning your children right over to the Devil. And you are going to encounter the power of the Devil to get control of your children. You are just really asking for it.

V. 7 - He cried with a loud voice, and said, what have I to do with thee, Jesus. Thou Son, of the most high God. In other words, he was afraid of the light. He didn't want the light. And if you stay away from the light and spiritual principles that build life - and you keep your young people and your children out, basically

you are turning them over to the forces of Satan.

Now society does not recognize spiritual problems. By the time your child is in the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade - and unless you have them in Bible study, the worship service, and in Sunday School - you can just about cross off 100% of them. They will go to the Devil. We may as well face it. We are living in a world where the demons control like flies. And when you have nothing to do with the church, condemn the prayer meetings - and then you can come and bring your children in when they get about 20 or so - and say what is wrong. I hear it every day, just about. They say, I can't control them. They are rebellious. I don't know what is the matter with him. And he can't control himself. Here he is, a young person. He is bound up in alcohol. He is tied up in dope. He is tangled up in lust. He is seeking pleasure. He is demon controlled.

Now Jesus talked to this demon that was inside of this man and the demon talked back. The man really had lost control of himself. And Jesus had to deal with the demons. This was like Charles Manson. Who said time and time again - that he was aware of some mysterious power that came over him. Power that he couldn't control. And it forced him to do things. He would tell lies and it was so awesome and dangerous. We ought to consider this - it is dangerous to live without Jesus.

The Exorcist - People Nightmares - Psychiat - patients returned - find demons in themselves -
Here in film - Tongue flicks like a serpent, face fills with blood & pus - Voice screams obscenity -
What is the answer to this demon possession. Who is the one who can abate

the exorcist for us. There is hope. There is power. The disciples would not even try to resist the devil themselves. The disciples said, the Lord rebuked you. When the devil comes knocking on your door - you really can't handle him. You have got to say there is Jesus. I am going to turn you over to him.

Unless you are living a life filled and controlled by the spirit - the Holy Spirit. Unless you have Jesus down inside of you - let me tell you what will happen. You will maybe have your name on a church roll. You will try to live by some set of principles. And you have some sort of religion. But without Jesus that is just like turning over a new leaf, for a few minutes.

Notice the prayer here that the demons said, Jesus if you are going to cast us out - then cast us into those swine. Those demons knew it was better to inhabit the swine than to go back to Hell. They didn't want to go there. They said, send us into the swine. And this is exactly what Jesus did. 2,000 of them and they ran violently into the sea and were drown. That means that there must have been a demon in each pig. That is 2000.

Mary Magdalene was possessed of seven. Here was a man possessed of 2000. It must be bad. It had this man out of his mind. He was controlled by other powers. They came out of him.

Now when they came out of him - the man wanted to follow Jesus. He said, I will go anywhere you will go. And Jesus said, no, I want you to go back to your home town. I want you to tell everybody, your friends, about this.

Now the people that owned the hogs - how did they react. Why, they told Jesus to get out of town. We don't want your salvation. We don't want people saved from demons.

What these people were saying was don't disturb my country. That is the way people are today. They would rather leave things as they are - living in their own sin and destitute.

Don't disturb my possessions. Here is another aspect to this thing - they

were clutching to their swine. They were saying, don't disturb my religion. These people didn't want to become subject unto Jesus. And these people had a certain belief, and they didn't want it upset.

Film a Dangerous Trip for anyone - Rutchings - ~~Screamings~~ ^{Screamings}, Night-mares, Paintings

Now I believe that we have hope and we have an opportunity. And there is one who can practice, exercise real exorcism today. The trust exorcists is the one who dealt with this man possessed with demons.

You must rely on the word of God. When Jesus was tempted of the Devil and the demons - he answered Satan with these words. It is written. It is written. Each time he exhorted God's word. And the Bible teaches that whenever you are tempted, and you are going to be tempted - you will have to rely on God's word.

Second, the Bible tells you to resist the Devil. Fight the good fight of faith. Hudson Taylor, in China, was asked once - how do you know there is a Devil. Resist him for a day and you will find out.

The blood of the lamb will be the thing that overcomes. This is the victory, in Jesus. How can we account for one like Hitler - accept we know that he must be demon possessed.

*Jesus Power This Way -
A Wraying Thing: Has Power cast out
Demons - Defeat Problems -
Victory over impossible situations -
Jesus left this Galilee & now
came back again -
He is here Today ->*