

Expect A Miracle Part 3

Jesus Can Cast Out Any Demon

Luke 8:26-39, Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verses: Luke 10:17

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Although a small amount of us have seen miracles as they are described in the New Testament we believe they are real and we believe that in the name of Christ we may still see them today. Though I don't understand it, I can grasp the fact that Jesus has the power to heal blind eyes, crippled bodies, and all manner of sickness. We read in the Word of God over and over again how Jesus healed. He healed the Lepers, he healed the bleeding woman, he healed Peter's mother in law, he healed blind men left and right, he healed the man at the pool, he healed the man lowered through the ceiling, he healed the centurion's servant... on and on and on he healed and I believe it happened then and I believe it can happen today! All things are possible with Jesus.

Where I begin to lose the connection a bit is when we get into today's topic. Jesus not only can cast out every disease and every disability, but Jesus can cast out every demon. I don't even really know what a demon is. To my knowledge I've never seen a demon or demon possession. Sure I can read about but it's not a part of my story per se. So what is up with Jesus and casting out demons.

Let's read two of the more prominent stories in the Gospels and dig a little deeper into what Christ wants us to see this morning and understand about demons and the power to cast them out. Read with me if you would in [Luke 8:26-39](#), and [Mark 9:14-29](#). For reference note that the story of the Demon who said they were Legion is also seen in [Mark 5:1-20](#) and [Matthew 8:28-34](#). The story of the mute Demon with seizures is also seen in [Matthew 17:14-20](#) and [Luke 9:37-43](#).

After looking at these passages it becomes clear that we are probably more involved in spiritual warfare against demons than we are aware. If we are to defeat them we need to understand them as Jesus did. Today I want us to spend our time examining what Demons are, what they do, and how they are no match for the power of Christ.

Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need know here is that... **Demons Are Very Real Spiritual Entities That War Against Humanity To Drag It To Hell.** Demons aren't figments of fiction or our imaginations. They aren't just

the products of Hollywood horror flicks. According to the Bible, they are extremely real. So, in order to understand these very real spiritual entities we must first understand where they come from. Where do they come from? [Revelation 12:7-9](#) tells us that they are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God and exist to lead the world astray. Jesus himself testifies to this origin where in [Luke 10:18](#) He says "I saw Satan fall from Heaven." Also according to [Matthew 12:43-45](#), and [Luke 11:24-26](#) the bible makes it clear that they are formless, spiritual entities which inhabit the empty spaces in people. This is very interesting because it shows us that **the more empty people are the more susceptible to demonic oppression or possession they are.** You can fill yourself with more of Jesus or be emptied of true theological and spiritual food and be available for the filling of demons. Something will fill your heart and mind... if not Christ, it will be the world, and it will be demonic. Why? Because demons are parasites who feed on our emotions. As we've already seen, they don't want to be without a body, even going so far as to ask to go into pigs if no human is available. [Ephesians 6:12](#) tells us that they are spiritual forces for evil and [1 Peter 5:8](#) makes it clear that as servants of Satan they prowl the world looking for people to devour.

And what happens when they find a target? All kinds of evil things. [2 Cor. 4:4](#) tells us that they blind the minds of unbelievers to the light of the Gospel. Look at [Luke 9:38-39](#). They possess them and can cause physical harm to them. Most of all, according to [1 Timothy 4:1](#), they deceive and promote false doctrines. The bottom line is this... **the overwhelming purpose of demons is to destroy God's plan by destroying God's people.** He will attack the lost to lead them astray and he will attack the saved to destroy their testimony. This is their goal, but we can defeat them... **Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.**

Secondly we need to know that... **Demons Have No Power That Is Not Allowed By Christ For His Purposes.** It's weird to think that Jesus is sovereign over demons. It's even weirder to think that he may use them for his own plans. But that is the case. Look at this story in [Luke 4:31-37](#), and [Mark 1:21-28](#). The demons know Jesus and are subject to his authority. Look at this story in [Mark 3:7-12](#). We see here that the demons must fall down at Jesus' feet and must obey his words. They have no choice.

If Jesus has all authority of demons he is clearly not a demon, which some of the Pharisees accused him of being. Look at this exchange in [Matthew 12:22-29](#), [Luke 11:14-23](#), and [Mark 3:22-27](#). A couple of things to note here. Jesus is not the prince of demons because he has the power to cast out demons. Why would demons cast out demons. They want to stay in a human host to destroy his connection to God. Casting him out only frees the host to the glory of God. As Jesus says, a house divided can not stand. Therefore, Jesus is not a demon. Rather, Jesus is the anti-demon.

Jesus is clearly divided against demons and his kingdom will stand against the forces of darkness. And, he will prevail against them.

It's also interesting to note that though he is against them, sometimes Jesus will use demons for his purposes. We see this where he uses them to judge people as in **Judges 9:23** where God sent an evil spirit between the warring factions of Abimelech and Shechem. Or in **1 Samuel 16:15, & 18:20** where God sent an evil spirit to disturb Saul. We also see God using demons to test believers like he did in **2 Cor 12:7** with Paul's thorn in the flesh.

The point is this... Jesus is in sovereign over demons for his glory. **Demons may seem scary until you realize that they are all under the authority and control of Jesus Christ. Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.**

The last thing, and the most important thing, that we need to know today is that... **Demons Are No Threat To Those Who Guard Themselves In Christ.** Look at this story in **Mark 3:27-30**, and **Matthew 12:30-32**. One of the most important takeaways from this story is the fact that we must bind the strong man, and there is only one way to accomplish this. We must bind, or destroy, or deter demons by placing our faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. If we blaspheme the Holy Spirit, by saying we don't believe in Him or trust him, or depend on him then we have no power. Now, not to get too pentecostal on you, but I believe the weakest part of most baptistic churches or traditional denominations is their propensity to ignore or demean the Holy Spirit. Guys, he is God! He is one third of the trinity! To lessen him is to destroy your soul! We must put a higher premium on the Holy Spirit and spiritual warfare! Why? Because when we trust in the power of Christ within us there is no demon that can bind us, or power that can stop us. But, when we refuse to place our trust in the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit we are open to every demonic attack, and worse, if we persist in our unbelief we will be cast with the demons into hell.

Look at another story in **Matthew 15:21-28**, and **Mark 7:24-30**. It is also clear that in the Holy Spirit we must humble ourselves and depend upon the power of Christ to defend us from demons. We are nothing compared to Christ. We aren't worthy of the scraps that fall to the floor. Yet when we place our faith in Jesus we become very powerful and demons flee.

Holy Spirit power, check. Humility and dependence on Christ, check. But I must point us to another powerful way to guard ourselves from demons, and it's outside of the Gospels. We must look to **Ephesians 6:11-18** and put on the full armor of God. Let's face it, we need all the help we can get **Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.**

Application

So what is the application this morning? What does Christ expect us to learn from his example of these miracles? First, I believe we've been given authority to cast out demons. According to **Luke 9:1** the twelve were given authority to cast out demons. In **Luke 10:17** we are told that all demons were subject to the 72 disciples in Christ's name. And according to **Mark 9:38-41** we see a regular normal guy who wasn't an apostle casting out demons in Christ's name. I think the case can be made that Christ has still given those who follow him the ability to do the same. But, it's not our power. We must trust in Jesus' name to do the work and leave our name out of it. We do so through the power of the name of Jesus and no other name. **Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.**

But secondly, **It's not a common thing to cast out demons. It's probably a very rare thing, at least here in the states. I assume that when and if we ever encounter someone who is demon possessed or oppressed we will know what to do and that the power of Christ in us will allow us to prevail. However, I don't think what Christ is saying in the Gospels is to go around looking for all kinds of demons and start casting them out all over the place. We aren't Christian wizards fighting a thousand Voldemorts or Gospel Gangsta's doing drive-bys on gangs of demons. Again, we are humbly led by the Holy Spirit. What is way more important is being prepared in faith and humility at all times to guard from the enemies normal everyday attacks.**

Conclusion

So where is your faith in the power of the Holy Spirit? Where is your humility and dependence upon the protection of Christ? And where is your armor? Are you in the word, prayed up, living in righteousness, and shielding yourself in faith from the devil's arrows? **It's way more important as a Christian to be guarded in Christ than to be able to cast out demons. Although we can, Christ is the true demon slayer! Though they may seem powerful, all demons are subject to us in Christ's name.**