

"Demon Possession"

By J.M. Little

In our last study on the "Demon Possession" we looked briefly at the "Maniac of Gadara" in the fifth chapter of Mark. At this time we want to look more particularly at some of the classes of demons that we find in the Word of God. I don't know if you had ever thought about it or not but there are different classes of demons taught in the Scriptures.

The first class of demons I want to call your attention to is a demon of Super Natural Strength. In the fifth chapter of Mark in verses 3 and 4 we find these words: "Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him." Fetters were instruments of brass and iron used to hold the feet of prisoners. This poor heavily demon possessed man, having in him demons of super natural strength, broke the fetters in pieces. He also was bound with chains, he plucked them off. A human being alone could not do such as this poor soul was doing when he was bound. Today they have what is known as a "straight jacket" to put individuals in when they are uncontrollable.

Here you may have an elderly person who has been sick a very long time. They may be bed-ridden. After a long period of illness they may drop to less than a 100 pounds. Then one day you may try to move their leg or arm, you struggle with them but find that you and others cannot move the leg or arm of that sick person. If you didn't know the agents behind it, you'd scratch your head trying to figure out why you can't handle a very sick and feeble person who has been bed-ridden for months or even years. My friend, such a soul who manifests super natural strength as that is demon possessed with a demon of super natural strength. That soul who has been weak for years may suddenly be able to lift their own bed. That may be shocking to some of you. Every soul out of Christ is demon-possessed.

The maniac of Gadara was in such condition no man could tame him, yes he was wild. We saw in our last study that his dwelling was in the tombs. What a place for a human to dwell. My heart goes out to you who are demon possessed. I weep for you. I too was once heavily demon possessed. As I told you in my last study I was possessed with a host of demons.

Verse five brings us to two more classes of demons; "And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones." There is a Demon Spirit of Crying. A Demon Spirit of Crying is the second class of demons I call your attention to. Night and day in the mountains and in the tombs he was crying. Have you ever seen a person just break out crying for seemingly no reason at all? I have many times. And I know that a demon spirit of crying can make a soul do that. I've seen it time after time. My friends, I'm telling you that of which I know. A soul possessed with a demon spirit of crying may burst out crying and you know that cry is different from other crying. It's one of the saddest things to listen to. I wish I could tell these things like I know them. A soul may sit around day and night as this poor man of Gadara did and just cry and feel sorry for themselves.

Then we see in this same verse (5) he was cutting himself with stones. Here is the third class of demons I call to your attention: A Demon Spirit of Self Murder. He was cutting himself with stones, the demon was making him do it. No man in his right mind would try to take his life. The demons were trying to take this man's life. Oh look at the suicide numbers today in our land. Only by the grace of God am I alive to tell the story that I'm telling now. I'll never forget the two times in my life I thought of taking my life, just killing myself. The first time was several years ago. I believe it would have been in 1962. For years I had lived with a deep emptiness in my heart. I knew from that day I made that first profession when I was a lad of about 8 years that there had been no change on the inside. I tried every major religion in the



J. M. Little

world trying to fill the aching void in my heart. My heart was tender and moved by religious services. I never went to hear a preacher to criticize him. I went to get to hear him tell me what was wrong, why was there the emptiness in my heart. I searched high and low trying to find the answer. So after all those years I was so miserable. Every soul who is saved knows what I'm talking about. I believe it was in 1962 I became so miserable I didn't know what to do. I remember very well one Sunday afternoon I was sitting on my aunt's front porch alone. I was so miserable I didn't know what to do. Satan whispered to me: "You may as well be dead, you are so miserable, just go ahead and kill yourself." And there I was that Sunday afternoon there on the front porch thinking of taking my own life. I said, "I may as well go on and kill myself, I'd rather be dead." And there I was thinking of how to take my life, I was willing to do it. But suddenly the phono rang and I was napped out of that despondency. I was in the run to answer the phone. I told the party who was calling me: "I don't know why you called me but I'm so glad you did." I now know it was the Lord in his good providence that directed that phone call that interrupted me from killing myself. Praise the Lord for His grace and mercy. And some of you marvel why I love to talk about my Lord and my Saviour. You let the Lord talk about Christ. I am not ashamed of my Lord. Then there was the second time I considered taking my life in 1963, that Fall. It was again that I was so miserable I said: "I'd be better off dead." Yet I could not see beyond the grave. The Lord again in His good providence stopped me. It's only by the grace of God that I'm saved and alive to tell the story today. You may come back at me and say: "Bro Little you ought not to tell that story." I've got to tell it, I feel constrained to do it. I'm talking about the Lord of all mercy who has kept me, such a sinner like me who deserved nothing but Hell, how He over the years before Effectual Calling kept my soul from the Pit. Oh the love of God that kept me. But for the grace of God I'd be in Hell tonight with my loved ones who are there. It's Christ my Lord who has kept me and saved me.

Look around you my friends, see the multitudes falling into Hell every day? No you don't see it do you? If you did you would not go planning to live for a thousand years as you are doing. Wake up brother! Judgement is coming. I've wept for you souls here, you don't see the danger you are in but I do. I know the Pit you are headed for. How many of you are sleeping your way to Hell! You are just as unconcerned as an ostrich with her head in the sand. Judgement is coming my brother. Oh I would that you could see the danger you are in. Look at the multitudes of church members going to Hell! Can't you see some of it? I am only here by the grace of God. I have been on vacation for almost 17 days. The very first Monday I was off my cousin and his wife were drowned in the Pee Dee River. I know that but for the grace of God that would have been me. Several years ago I went with him and his wife down on the river fishing. The werc instantly cut off. My friend, how old are you going to be when you are cut off? It was stated that he was 34 and his wife 28. I'm 29, if I live to see September 6th I'll be 30. You young folks are going on planning

to live another thousand years. You care nothing about Christ at all. Some of you elderly people.

Mayfield To Open Day Care Center

Continued from page 1

Services will be held at 11 a.m., and 7 p.m., Saturday, January 1. "Miss E.C. Cannon Crusade" will be crowned in the evening service.

A 100 voice choir will sing for the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, January 2. This service will be video taped and broadcast over WSOC-TV, channel 9, Monday at 7 p.m.

A number of out-of-town guests are expected for the crusade, said the Rev. Cannon. Special guests include Bishop J.A. Sherman, Ambassador Rush and his singers, Bishop L.D. Davenport of Plymouth and Bishop W.T. Bowers of Kannapolis.

Dinners will be sold at 1 p.m., Saturday, said Rev. Cannon.

"During the crusade, we'll be administering to the sick and suffering," said the minister. "There will also be counseling throughout the day."

SIMPSON-GILLESPIE

The Rev. L. Scott Allen, resident Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, will preach at Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 2, at 11 a.m.

The sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated.

The public is invited, said the Rev. James E. McCallum, pastor of the church.

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Holiday Trash Tips

How can you help keep Charlotte neat and clean during the holidays?

Just read and follow these collection tips from the Sanitation Division.

January 3-7 Week After New Year's

- Each residence in the city will receive two backyard garbage collections on a Tuesday-Thursday/Wednesday-Friday schedule.
- There will be NO curbside trash collection during this week. Do not place any items at the curb.
- Place trash at the curb on Tuesday, Jan. 11 for collection on Wednesday, Jan. 12.
- The York Road Landfill will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 3-8.

Tree Tips

Remember, place cut Christmas trees at the curb on Jan. 3 for collection. After this date, trees will be picked up on regular Wednesday collection.

Live Christmas trees can be donated to the City for planting in a park or on public property. Call the Landscaping Division at 374-2577 for pickup and information.

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