

Satan's Hidden Influence Lesson #3

Things Associated with Demonic Influences (Mark 5:1-20)

In the previous lesson we discussed how that there really was a spiritual world that held all kinds of spiritual things. We looked at how there are good things from God in the spirit world as in the case of Elisha and his servant at Dothan. But we also saw how that there were evil things in the spirit world connected with Satan.

In this lesson we are going to look at a man who was possessed with an unclean spirit. By looking at this example we will see some of the effects of unclean or demonic influences in the behavior of people. Now just because someone has or may exhibit some of these characteristics we are not saying that they are demon possessed but we are showing who is behind the influence in these things that affect people's lives.

4 Things that are associated with a demonic influence :

1) The possessed man dwelled in the tombs (verse 2)

Notice that one of the first things we see about this man is that he is dwelling in a grave yard. When people have an obsession with death or the dead, which is an obvious sign of a demonic influence.

Now remember that Satan is subtle and does not show himself fully all of the time. One of the ways that this is manifest today is in music and clothing. Some people wear all black and use white makeup and darken their eyes to make themselves appear dead. They say this is just a style or a cultural thing such as being goth or gothic. But it obviously comes from a demonic influence whether they realize it or not.

Another area where this shows up today is in music, which Satan also uses to deceive people as we will see in a later lesson in this series. There are bands that are called black metal groups and many of the lyrics to their songs involve death or the dead. Remember that Satan is tricky and he can mess a person up with these things and their influence.

2) There was a supernatural strength in this man's life (verses 3-4)

The word of God says that no man could bind him and when he was bound he had broken the chains. His strength was not his but it came from the unclean spirit that was inside of him. This shows us that demonic influences are very strong and that without help of God we will not totally overcome them.

We can make a spiritual application here in regards to the fact that it is hard for us to overcome sin and these influences in our lives. Just try and quit watching worldly television shows and movies or reading worldly books or listening to worldly music and see how hard it is. Jesus gives us some insight on this in **John 8:34**. Here the word of God says that when we sin we are the servant of sin. This is very hard to break free from. This is why you have to be so careful with

letting these influences into your lives because they are very strong and powerful and very hard to resist.

3) There was a self destructive force in this man's life (verse 5)

The word of God says that the possessed man was cutting himself with stones. The practice of cutting the flesh is connected directly with worshipping false Gods that are connected with Satan. The Prophets of Baal did this very thing when they could not get their god (Baal) to answer them in **2 Kings 18:28**. Also we see in **Matthew 17:15** there was a possessed young man and he was constantly throwing himself in the fire or the water.

This is why we see these things everywhere in our society today. Cutting and destroying the flesh is common among not only adults and but also children and teens. In Leviticus we see that that they were to make no marks or cuttings in the flesh for the dead (**Leviticus 19:28**). So why is tattooing growing at such a rampant pace today, it is the influence of Satan. One might ask why would Satan want every so interested in tattoos? Because in the tribulation there is a thing that the anti-christ will require for people to have it is called the mark of the beast, with everyone already obsessed with tattoo no one will think twice about getting mark. Now we are not saying the mark is a tattoo, Satan is just using tattoos to get people used to the idea of having a mark.

We must resist these influences especially saved people remember how subtle Satan is he now has people getting so called "Christian tattoos". There is no such thing remember what Leviticus says.

4) There was no discretion in this man's life (**Luke 8:27**)

In the gospel of Luke we see this same man who is possessed except for Luke adds something that is not found in Mark. Luke tells us that he did not wear any clothes. Nakedness is also connected with Satanic or demonic influences. One doesn't have to look far to see this in our society today we are plagued with immodest and half naked people everywhere we look, from the television to the magazines, to the mall, to the schools, to the grocery stores and even in churches. This is a shame and it shows how much influence Satan really has amongst people today even saved people.

What we need today is parents with discretion about what they wear and then they might have some discretion about what their kids are wearing. For verses on discretion see **Proverbs 1:4 ; 2:11 ; 3:21 ; 5:2** etc.

2 Things that saved this man :

There were two things that changed this man's life. Number one was the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ (verse 6-7) and number two was the word of God (verse 8). To avoid or get out from under demonic influences we need the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and the word of God these are the only two things that will work.

