

Deliverance

Key Verse:

Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Exploring the Bible

I. What is Deliverance?

What exactly is deliverance? There is no word for this in the New Testament. But this word describes the ministry of Jesus which he demonstrated for us in setting people free of demonic oppression and demonic possession.

Examples:

Matthew 8:16 - That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

Question: What did Jesus do for all who were oppressed by demons?

Answer:

Mark 1:32 – 34 - That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Question: What did Jesus do to all the demons?

Answer:

In these two passages, Jesus sets many people free of demonic oppression and possession. He set free all those who came to him needing help and freedom. Casting out demons can sound strange and perhaps dark. It might conjure up scenes from the "Exorcist" or some other similar movie. We might even think of some power encounter with a witch doctor in some foreign land. This is one area of ministry that has been sensationalized in many different ways. Let's look at what the Bible has to say.

II. How Does it Start?

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

Question: What does the devil come to do?

Answer:

The devil doesn't have authority to steal, kill, and destroy from everyone. If he did, we would all be dead. He would kill us because he hates us that much. But he can only operate where he has been given authority to operate. Sin provides that authority.

Read *John 5:1 – 15*

Question: What does Jesus tell the man to stop doing (verse 14)?

Answer:

Question: Why does Jesus give the man this command (verse 14)?

Answer:

The Bible doesn't say what the man did that caused him to be an invalid for 38 years, but it is clear from Jesus' statement and command to him that if he continued to sin, something worse might come upon him. The reason is that sin opens the door and gives authority to the devil to bring this kind of destruction upon a man.

John 9:1 – 3 - As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Question: Who did the disciples suggest might be responsible for this man's blindness?

Answer:

The disciples had been with Jesus for a while when this encounter occurred. They had seen him heal many people. The only reason they would ask this question is because Jesus must have pointed out the root of many sicknesses and oppression in the lives of people as sin. It was a natural question. The reason this story is included

in the Bible is because it is a situation where sin was not at the root of this man's condition.

Sin opens the door for the devil to come and steal, kill, and destroy. The more we sin, the more we open the door for the enemy to come in and operate in our life. That is why understanding what strongholds are and how they get started is so important. Strongholds represent areas where the enemy has a fortified area in our life from which he can carry out his destructive work.

III. What is Demonic Oppression?

There is a big Greek word (demonidzomi) that is sometimes translated as demon oppressed and sometimes demon possessed in the New Testament. In its simplest terms it means to be demonized. A person could be demonized a little (demon oppression) or demonized a lot (demon possession). It depends on how many doors a person has open to the enemy and how much opportunity the enemy has taken to invade and control areas of that life as to where a person falls in the spectrum.

Examples:

Matthew 9:32 - As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him.

Question: What was wrong with this demon oppressed man?

Answer:

Read *Mark 5:1 – 13*

Question: Where did this man live before he was set free from demonic possession (verse 5)?

Answer:

Question: What was the name of the demon (verse 9)?

Answer:

Question: Where did the demons begged Jesus to send them (verse 12)?

Answer:

There are two contrasting pictures. The first one was a man who simply couldn't speak. There was no other social disorder. He acted completely normal except that

he could not speak. On the other end of this spectrum was a man living naked in a graveyard, cutting himself with stones and screaming, and unbindable by any human means. But both were demonized. Being demonized is a matter of degrees. The more we open or have opened our life to sin, the more demonized we will become. At some point, the enemy is able to start controlling and driving areas of our life. Once he begins to possess that area or areas of a life, the devil (a demon) is literally a driving force in that life rather than the person.

We must note that Jesus never condemned anyone for being demonized. His purpose was to save, deliver, and to set free. We must never fall under condemnation nor should we put anyone else under condemnation for being demonized regardless of the degree.

IV. The Good News of the Cross

While the devil might have gained access into one or more areas of our life in order to steal, kill, and destroy, the cross has brought complete defeat and destruction to the devil and his forces.

Colossians 2:13 – 15 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Question: What did Jesus do to the powers and authorities (verse 15)?

Answer:

Ephesians 4:7 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Question: What does Jesus bring with him when he ascends on high?

Answer:

The powers and authorities of darkness were defeated by Jesus on the cross. In fact Jesus went so far as to make a public spectacle of them. The picture described in Ephesians 4:7 is that of a Roman general returning from a victorious conquest. The general would lead his army in a long parade into the city of Rome handing out gifts to the cheering citizens from the spoils of his conquests. At the end of this parade were all the people who had been conquered in the battle. They were destined

either to be slaves or to die in the Colosseum. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He brought with him the captives of his conquest namely the demonic forces, and according to Colossians 2:15 He led them through the streets of heaven making a public spectacle of His victory over them. The devil has been utterly and completely defeated at the cross. Therefore, any hold that he might have on your life can be broken by the power of the cross.