



Empowering People to Change the World

Demons, Forgiveness & Healing

Steve Holt

Demons, Forgiveness, and Healing

Let's take Communion together.

The Road Declaration. Everyone stand, hold up your Bible, and shout it out:

***God can move mountains in my life
I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word
I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, all things are possible***

Demons, Forgiveness, and Healing

**Dr. Siegel, a pediatric and general surgeon, “If I told patients to raise their blood levels of immune globulins or killer T-cells, no one would know how. But if I told them to love themselves and others fully, the same changes happen automatically. The truth is: Love heals.”
(Siegel, B.S. (1986) *Love, Medicine, and Miracles*, Harper & Row, p. 181)**

- I am so impressed with Jesus and His style of ministry
- He tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God with ALL of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically) and your neighbor as yourself (socially)
- This stuff really works—the Kingdom Way, lining up with the kingdom brings healing

Demons, Forgiveness, and Healing

Matthew 8:28-29

- Getting out of the boat and meeting this demoniac
- Mark says that this man immediately met him. Mark and Luke say there was one demoniac, but Matthew says it was 2 men.

- One is the spokesman of the two. This is the only place on the Sea of Galilee where there is this steep cliff right at the water
- Demons are always violent in some way—Satan is a “murderer” and Satan is an Angel of Suicide
 - Mark and Luke says they had snapped chains. Mark says they cried day and night. Howling, gauging themselves with rocks
 - Ex. I remember this supposed “haunted house” near a cemetery. Kind of spooky. No one could pass by there!
 - In our society today, we lock them down and put them into an institution. Tormented their whole life. Possessed by demons
- First time in the NT Jesus is called “Son of God”
- Look back at verse 27, they just asked the question and a demon possessed man answers the question!!
- “Before the time” they know they’re destiny! Hell or Gehena or Hades, is reserved for demons and the lost, eternal torment.
 - These demons know prophecy! Satan quotes scripture. The demonic know this.
 - You sometimes see the tabloids about prophecies, don’t be surprise by this.
 - Satan hates the Book of Revelation because it prophecies his demise

Vs 30-32

Wherever Jesus shows up, Demons get Uncomfortable!

- Mark says there were 2k swine
- I don’t believe any believer can be “demon possessed” in the sense that they are owned by demons. The Greek word for “possessed,” *Daimonazai* has the idea of being “demon influenced” Yes we can be

demonically influenced. Ephesians 6 tells us that we are all involved in spiritual warfare, even as Christians

- o When we indulge the flesh, demons can eventually hook up to that fleshly sin
 - o This is why almost every Epistle speaks of the devil and demons
 - o Listen there is nothing good in your own flesh
 - o Look what the demons did—they killed the swine. This is what demons do!
 - o All demonization is headed toward suicide!
- We can cast out any demons with the word of Jesus! yes, you can do it. if you are struggling with a fleshly area, renew your mind with God's Word and cast your heart and mind on the Kingdom Way
 - One word "Go" and they went. Go and they went. Go and they went
 - YOU, my beloved friend, have power to cast out demons!!

Vs. 33-34

- Remarkable. They see this man delivered. They see pigs floating in the lake and they beg him to leave. He ruined their economy!!
- He should have just let the demons loose on the village! Imagine 2k pigs smoking cigarettes around the village, harassing everyone, running through the shops
- Isn't it amazing how much power money has?
- They don't want Jesus around. He's disrupted their economy. I mean when God gets hold of your heart, He takes over our finances!

9:1-2

- Mark says it was, Four guys carrying this guy on a litter (Mark) and it was so crowded were so thick, they go around the back and get on the roof and literally dug out the roof, dust starts to come down and

they lower him down into the center of the room. Poor guy probably begging these guys “lets come another day. We just tore up this guys roof!”

- Jesus says “Son (meaning child), your sins be forgiven” Evidently the man must be more aware of his sin than his physical problem. Often times people come up for prayer and they want prayer for their marriage or this person left them, etc. But as we wait on the Lord, we hear God say it’s something else within THEM that needs to be healed
- Jesus sees that this guy’s real issue is forgiveness. He longs for forgiveness. Billy Graham once said, if people knew they were forgiven, 90% of our patients in hospitals would be healed!
- It’s their sin that is causing their sickness! The real issue is their sin. “Be of good cheer”! he wants him to be happy!

We have known for the past 3 decades that giving and receiving forgiveness can bring physical healing

Three Things Science and Health tells us:

1. When we hold onto a resentment, grievance, shame, guilt, or pain from the past, our entire body-mind suffers. Our body produces excessive amounts of hormones such as [adrenaline and cortisol](#), which over time can compromise our immune system, and potentially contribute to [cardiovascular disease](#).
2. Hostility, anger, and unforgiveness is an inflammatory emotion and, [as researchers have found](#), the number one emotional risk factor for premature death from heart attacks and strokes.
3. Hostility, anger, and unforgiveness, is also linked to autoimmune disorders. It’s not a coincidence that we speak of people “dying from a broken heart,” or describe a betrayal as “a stab in the back,” or say that a deep loss was “gut wrenching.”

Jesus knows that the key to this man's healing is for him to experience healing in his heart

- As Liz said last week at our Couples Conference, "marriage is made up of two good forgivers"

Vs. 3-4

- Jesus knows our thoughts and motives. Especially in traffic. Especially when you're in the check-out line when the person pulls out a check!

Vs. 5

- If you just say your sins are forgiven because no one knows but if you say be healed, everyone knows immediately
- Everyone who came to Jesus was healed. We don't do this enough. Don't just settle for the second place thing—doctors. We should always believe that God can heal today!! We see it happen
- Make it your first thought to pray for Jesus to heal, then secondary, go to the doctors
- Jesus sees faith! Jesus notices faith!
- But he needed faith and forgiveness
- BTW, going to the doctor is faith too. Jesus is going to say that the sick need a physician (vs. 12) but I'm saying why not go the Chief Physician first!!

Vs. 6-8

- Get out of here! Imagine the crowd's reaction! They are fired up!!

- They are now wondering, does God really forgive sin that quickly? Is He really that ready to forgive your sin today? Yes He is.
- Have you experienced forgiveness at the heart level, not just the head level

Vs. 9

- Matthew is writing this. His name was Levi. He grew up in a religious system. You wouldn't have had that name if his family wasn't religious.
 - Religious Levi rebels. Levi becomes a tax collector! He is hated by the Jews. He would collect taxes with a Roman soldier right behind him, collecting taxes.
- He's hearing of the healings, lepers being cleansed, demons being cast out, and because he was raised in a Jewish background, and he has rejected it, but everything begins to click in a new way
 - Matthew may be looking at who His enemies are—the Pharisees, Sadducees, the Scribes, hey maybe I like this guy
 - You can tell a lot about a person by who their enemies are
 - Matthew looking at Jesus—I don't like these guys either
 - Matthew quotes the OT 99x in his book he wrote, we see his new study of Scripture
 - Matthew realizes “he saw a man” He saw who he really was!! For the first time in his life, someone really sees him as a man of value, as beloved!!
 - Jesus sees you as a beloved man, as a beloved woman today.
 - Matthew means “gift of God” That's what Jesus saw! A new name
 - Matthew lost everything and lost nothing

Vs. 10

- Matthew throws a party with his friends. “Potluck Evangelism”

- People say “Jesus is a crutch?” Knows he’s a hospital, ER, He’s all that!!

Vs. 11

- You are becoming one with their spirit! You are now unclean.
- Jesus has a lot of friends!

Vs. 12-13

- It was common at that time that if you asked a Pharisee or Scribe a question, they would answer “Go and learn what this means” and now Jesus is saying it back to them!
- Jesus is giving them a dose of their own medicine!
- Jesus is saying “I desire love, mercy, compassion, more than being religiously perfect”

People with high scores on intimacy, love, and compassion have higher levels of IgA antibodies and report less serious illness. Doctors and researchers are finding that people who seek friendship and accountability with others, are generally more healthy. (Dr. Blair Justice *Who Gets Sick*, p. 257)

At the Menninger Clinic, tests show that people who are romantically in love suffer fewer colds and have white blood cells that more actively fight infections (ibid.)

Vs. 14

- John’s always fasting and now they come to Jesus and He and His disciples are feasting.

Vs. 15

- Fasting is powerful!

- All through scripture, God uses men and women who fast and pray
- Daniel fasted and prayed and altered the destiny of a nation! Jesus fasted and prayed before He began His public ministry...

Vs. 16

- Ex. In my day, we would make our jeans look old by working in them until they looked old and we would keep the old jeans to make into patches. but today you can just buy them looking old. We liked putting the patches on our old jeans but now you just leave them all ripped up
- You don't put an old system onto a new work. you would put the old denim patch on your old jeans.
- Jesus: I'm not here to patch up an old religion, the old system. It's a whole new system! Our salvation is not us keeping the Law. You break the law everyday just in your thoughts. It is trusting in Christ! We are glorified, sanctified, and glorified in Christ

vs. 17

- When there is a new wine, it went into a new skin because the new skins wasn't dried out yet and as the wine began to ferment and produce gas, it would expand the container it was in, which was a flexible new skin. But if it was placed in an old skin, it would crack and break through
- That's the record of church history. Movements come and the structures of the church must change with the new work of the Spirit: Luther, Wesley, Azusa Street, Jesus Movement, Vineyard Movement
 - Changes happen in the church: 1) style of preaching changes; 2) style of worship changes; 3) style of a worship service changes
 - We are "Word-rooted, Spirit-alive, Culturally-engaged"
 - I believe God is making "Word & Spirit Churches" the mainstream churches!

- o Some things never change—souls of men, God, His Word
- o But some things change with new works of the Spirit—adapting to the culture in order to change the culture, not accommodate it
- o Each generation has a new wave of the Holy Spirit at work and churches that want to have cultural impact must change
- o New Wine, New Wineskins! Or it becomes dry and dead
- o “Blessed are the flexible for they will not be broken”
- o New movements happen with each generation. New systems needed.

What if God wants to bring a Kingdom of God Revolution through The Road?

Two Calls this Morning:

1. You are inspired with new conviction to break the power of unforgiveness in your life! It's time to get healthy mentally, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and even physically
2. You are being called by God to follow Jesus one hundred percent. Jesus knows your name! Just as He called Matthew, Jesus calls you!