KNOW YOUR ENEMY

WELCOME. Christian author CS Lewis wrote: "*There are two equal and opposite errors into which we can fall about the devil. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them*." So that we won't fall into those two opposite errors, as a church, we will delve into a part of Christian Theology commonly referred to as *demonology*. It is important that followers of Jesus know who our true enemy is. In this 3-part series, we will learn about the Enemy and the authority we have in Jesus.

WORSHIP. *Mighty Name of Jesus (Belonging)*

WORD. *Read* ***MARK 5:1-20***

1. Because this series is doctrinal, before diving into questions, we will first review last Sunday sermon's main points based on the story from Mark 5:

1. A Life Wrecked by the Enemy (vv. 1-5)
- A. Isolated & Alone: "*This man lived in the tombs*" (Vs. 3a)
- B. Unclothed: "*…this man had not worn clothes*" (Luke 8:27)
- C. Spiritually Shackled: "*For he had often been chained hand and foot*," (Vs. 4a)
- D. Self Harm: "*he would cry out and cut himself with stones*." (Vs. 5).

2. The Origin of the Devil and Demons
- A. The Devil was an angel who led a rebellion together with other angels against God (Isaiah 14:12-15).
- B. The Devil (Adversary) and his demons (other fallen angels) were thrown out of heaven (Luke 10:18).
- C. The Devil and his demons have made it their mission to oppose God and take as many people as they can with them through their lies and deceptions (John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 11:14).
- D. The Devil and his demons know that their future is set and are bent on bringing people with them (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:9).

3. The Authority of Jesus over the Enemy (vs. 7)
- A. Demons Recognize Authority of Jesus: "*Son of the Most High God*."
- B. Demons Beg for Mercy: "*do not torment me*."
- C. Demons Can Occupy Strongholds: "*And he begged him earnestly…*" (Vs. 10)
- D. Demons Have No Authority: "*So he gave them permission…*" (Vs. 13)

4. A Testimony of True Freedom (Vs. 14)
- A. Changed from the inside out: "*And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid***."** (Vs. 15)
- B. People begged Jesus to leave: "*And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region*." (Vs. 17)
- C. Witness where you are: "'*Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you*.'" (Vs. 19)

Conclusion: Know your authority in Jesus (1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 4:27, Romans 16:20, 1 John 4:4).

WORK. **Apply God's Word:**

1. Pastor Jon said, "*A true believer in Jesus cannot be possessed by demons, but they can still be oppressed if they don't know their authority*." How did Pastor distinguish "*possession*" from "*oppression*" and why is it important to know our authority?
2. Are there areas where you perhaps may be oppressed by the enemy, not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, or relationally?
3. How can we make sure that we *do not give the devil a foothold* in our lives? In what ways do we unknowingly give the devil access into our lives?
4. What strongholds in your life feel too powerful to break, but need to be surrendered to Jesus?
5. Have you ever felt like Jesus was tormenting you when He was actually trying to heal you?
6. What would change if you truly believed Jesus already gave you permission to live free?
7. What evidence in your life shows that Jesus has changed you by His grace? What is your testimony, and who in your community group needs to hear it?
8. Take time to pray for one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit.