

Luke

See Jesus

The Real Enemy We Face in Our World

Luke 8:26-39

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 26, 2021

I. Don't Overestimate What You Think We Can Do to Defeat Evil On Our Own

We need more than a human solution. We need a supernatural intervention because we cannot fix this mess on our own. The level of evil that we're up against is beyond anything we could ever conquer.

Luke 8:29 "...For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert."

The biggest problem you face here in this world will never be resolved on a human level with psychological, sociological, or physiological solutions.

A. You Need the Power of Jesus to Save You from Evil

A greater authority from outside of us has to speak into us to lift the darkness and break the power that controls and drives us to live in ways we don't even want to live sometimes.

Luke 8:29 "For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man..."

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

What can we do to get free from this darkness?

Luke 8:28 "When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him and said with a loud voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?..."

Mark 5:6 "When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him."

There is no greater subject you could consider and there's nothing that could change your life – and ultimately this world – like a decision to follow Jesus.

Run to Jesus and find out who He really is for yourself. Don't reject what you have not carefully examined for yourself. Get as close as you can to Jesus in the Gospels and ask God to show you who He really is.

B. You Need the Power of God's Spirit to Keep You from Giving In to Evil

The reason so many Christians are living such a defeated, depressing, and joyless Christian life is because so many fail to recognize the level of evil we are still up against.

See Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:6-10

Spiritual warfare is at the heart of our everyday fight against sin. These two things are the same!

1. Bitterness and Unforgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (ESV) “Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

(NKJV) “...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

2. Anger

Ephesians 4:26-27 (ESV) “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.”

(NIV) “...and do not give the devil a foothold.”

3. Envy and Selfish Ambition

James 3:14-16 (NKJV) “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

(NIV) “...but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.”

4. Lying and Deception

Acts 5:3 “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?’”

5. Pride

1 Timothy 3:6-7 (ESV) “He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”

(NIV) “...that he will not fall into...the devil’s trap.”

II. Don't Just Listen to This Without Applying It to Your Own Life

Don't keep wondering why God doesn't do something about evil in our world; He did! Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so that He could one day wipe out evil without wiping out us!

Luke 8:39 “‘Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.”

No matter how messed up you think you are, plunge your messed-upness into the mercy of Jesus and watch Him use you as a channel of grace for touching other people and piercing the darkness that's all around us.

1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”