

August 20th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Striving With your Maker: The Ruin of Resistance
Sermon #5 Title: Too Good Not to Be True
Sermon #5 Text: (Matthew 12:22-30)

We are talking about God's great warning; Woe to them who Strive with their Maker; and we are studying through a chapter in the life of Jesus, as He encountered, open confrontation, after open confrontation, from a group of people who did nothing BUT strive with Him.

This morning we come to a moment in this period of time that will show just how far some people will go to strive with the Lord Jesus.

We might think that surely there is a limit as to how far people will go in fighting against God and His Son.

Today, there is a depth that some go that will surprise you.

What you and I are going to see today are actual people who will go farther than the demons do in their resistance of Jesus.

- Some people desire, seek, and yield to Christ with all of their being with every breath of their life. – These are serious saints, and blue-ribbon believers whose only purpose in life is to please the Lord Jesus.

- Some people, who would never on purpose fight the Lord Jesus, will call His name, read His Bible, and pray to Him at all

times; but because they will not give up their will to His way, wind up striving with Him, without being conscious of the fact.

- Some people, like we are studying will fight Him farther than the demons will. They will resist Him and defy Him with more stamina, and more belligerence than the fallen, and wicked angels.

- Don't ever get the idea that Satan's demons are worse actors than men; you are going to see today a group of men who are worse than they are.

In our chapter this event seems to appear sometime after Christ's long day of ministry. We are still in the same region around Galilee; and most likely the multitudes of verse 15 have not all gone home. There are still many people gathered around.

-We also turn to Mark chapter 3, and Luke chapter 11, to bring their account of this same story, to get as much of a picture as we can get.

I. Jesus against the Demoniac

22. Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

23. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

A. The Hostage of Hell – The first thing we need to examine is this person that has been brought to Jesus. Christ is going to do something with this individual that will enrage His enemies, inspire His friends, and enamor the unsure.

*Note – There are three things the Bible tells us about this man.

- 1.) Blind – self explanatory
- 2.) Dumb – the word for “dumb” in the written language implies both deaf and mute.
 - he cannot see
 - he cannot hear
 - he cannot speak
- 3.) Possessed with a devil – this phrase “possessed with a devil” is just one word in Matthew’s writing, and it is just a word that means under the power of a demon.

*Note – Here is an unarguable picture of a “spiritual being” causing “physical problems.”

*Note – There can be no hesitation about the reality of demons from anyone who has the certainty of angels.

- Just as sure as there are cherubim and seraphim surrounding the throne of God, there are demonic beings that actually do roam this earth.

(They should be getting easier to spot as time goes on.)

We know not how long this person had been “held hostage to the demonic.”

A few things that should go without saying, but we’re going to anyway.

Not all blind people were demon possessed, and not all demon possessed people were blind.

Not all dumb people were demon possessed, and not all demon possessed people were dumb.

*Note – There can be little doubt that this is perhaps the most miserable of all conditions for human being to endure.

I read a little bit about Helen Keller, who in her later life spoke of what she remembered prior to Anne Sullivan’s work awakening in her some light from the outside world.

“I had no concepts whatever of nature or mind or death or God. I literally thought with my body. Without a single exception my memories of that time are tactile. . . . But there is not one spark of emotion or rational thought in these distinct yet corporeal memories. I was like an unconscious clod of earth. There was nothing in me except the instinct to eat and drink and sleep. My days were a blank without past, present, or future, without hope or anticipation, without interest or joy.”

Without question this was an indescribable prison for one to live in.

- But I tell you that in that day, and even in this one without the Anne Sullivan’s of the world; the condition this man was in was two-fold the hell he was enduring. – For this demon had him completely cut off from the entirety of the gospel message!

All forms of natural communication were cut off in this man.

- He could not see with the eyes
- He could not hear with the ears
- He could not speak with his mouth

(He could know NO one, and No one could know him.)

The only remaining senses this man would have had were taste, touch, and smell...

He could not read the gospel if you wrote it for him. He could not hear the gospel if you told it to him, you could not show him Jesus, nor tell him of the Messiah.

- He was the total prisoner of the demon.

That being said, I don't know "who brought him" but they did the only possible thing that could be done for him, which was bring him to Christ and let Jesus handle the man His way.

4.) The Physical ailments of this man are the same exact spiritual ailments all men have without Christ.

*Note – Note these things about the lost...

a.) They are spiritually blind –

2nd Corinthians 4:4 – “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

b.) They are spiritually deaf –

John 8:43-44 – Jesus said most likely to these very Pharisees 43. “**Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.**

44. **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**”

Romans 3:11 – “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.” – Deaf ears, and Blind Eyes are the spiritual condition of every lost person.

c.) They are spiritually mute – they have nothing to say of spiritual worth.

Jeremiah 8:9 – “The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?”

- Like a parrot they can repeat what they've heard others say, but they have no well of God's to be drawn from, or speak from. – Never take Spiritual advice from lost people they have nothing to offer.

*Note – Now with that being said – if they cannot spiritually see, and they cannot spiritually hear, and they cannot spiritually speak, how then can they be saved?

- The same way this man was healed. – it is only Jesus. It was not his ability to speak, think, or act, that delivered him from Satan, it was Jesus, willingness to heal.

- How can one “access Jesus” if they are spiritually, deaf, mute, and blind? – By Faith.

- “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” – **Romans 10:10**

- When anyone turns to the Jesus of the Bible, and entrusts themselves to Him for the forgiveness He offers and the atonement He made, and His willingness to save them; He will Save Them. – With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.

Had Helen Keller not trusted Anne Sullivan with her well-being and to do her work, Anne Sullivan would have made no ground in Helen Keller's life and she would have lived, Deaf, Blind, and Mute.

When anyone will trust Christ with their soul and for Him to do His work, the Bible says He opens the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, and the mouth of the dumb in every spiritual way.

(Now coming back to Romans 10 for a second - Don't get hung upon "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" meaning if someone doesn't speak it, then it doesn't happen. – If that be the case, one who is truly mute could never be saved.

- Paul is stating that "Following the believing unto righteousness, comes the willingness to confess openly your salvation.")

B. The Hero of Heaven – "...and He healed him insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw."

*Note – There is a lot going on right here when you bring Mark and Luke to the table as well.

- 1.) Matthew writes – "He healed him."
- 2.) Mark states the "unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried, saying Thou art the Son of God."
- 3.) Luke wrote – He was "casting out a devil."

*Note – Amazing things happen when Jesus shows up.

*Note – There is no contest in this confrontation. – Never, ever get the idea that anything is a struggle for Jesus to win.

*Note – Get and keep this picture:

#1 – Jesus healed the man's body. He gave him eyesight, to see all the colors of the rainbow. He gave him hearing so he could listen to the song of the whippoorwill, the psalms of David and the gospel Jesus was preaching. He gave him back his ability to know and be known; to speak, sing, shout, or whisper. – Christ made this man physically whole!

(What Christ did to this man physically, He will do to any one spiritually who entrusts themselves to Him.)

#2 – The demons bowed and worshipped Christ! The demons did two things that without doubt that day stunned and bewildered those watching.

- they fell down at the feet of Jesus. – Never get the idea that there is spiritual warfare because Jesus is struggling with the demonic – there is no struggle – no contest – He just shows up – and unless He gives them permission – they come to a paralyzing halt.

- they did something that day – that struck the heart and the mind of all those standing around – Before Jesus "cast them out", when they saw Jesus, in the body of that man they dropped him to the ground, and used his voice to cry out; and for the first time in his life anyone would ever hear his voice, Mark writes the testimony of these demons in the ears of the crowd with the voice of the mute – **"Thou art the Son of God."**

*Note – Even the demons have to admit what the Pharisees would not.

Even the demons admit . . . what multitudes of people in this world will not.

On this day, at this time, in this moment, there was only one group striving with the Maker, and it wasn't the demons in the body of this man. – It would still be those Pharisees and rebels who just flat refuse to admit what is true.

(Here is a lesson for the future. Satan is a liar and the father of lies, and he only tells lies when he is awake or asleep. He has brought lying and deception into this world for the purpose of burying the truth in an ocean of confusion. – BUT in the presence of the Lord, he has no recourse but to state the truth. –

Here's the point – Man may lie to himself, to God the Son, and God the Father, down here but he will not be able to lie in their presence face to face.

#3. He cast the demons out. – Preacher, did they leave on their own, or were they cast out. – You bet! There is no problem with those demons falling to the ground in the presence of Jesus, and then Him saying scat cat.

-Mark says "they fell down" – Matthew says – Jesus "cast them out"

Let it sink in deep down – **Jesus is the only hero we have.** He is both our "physical overseer, our spiritual healer, and our eternal Savior;" and that's without even mentioning He is the commanding LORD over all of His people.

C. The Hesitation of the Hearers – "And all the people were amazed, and said, Is this not the son of David?"

1.) the word for amazed (existemi) means – "to stand aside from your senses" or "driven from control of your mind."

*Note – The great multitudes of verse 15 that have been listening, and watching, and observing have witnessed something that makes them wonder, "is this what we think it is?" – "Is He who we were told about?"

Most language doctors tell us that the way Matthew wrote this implies a strong sense of bewildering skepticism...

(Some paraphrase the writing this way – "This cannot be the Son of David can it?")

They had read, and been taught that the Messiah would open blind eyes, and unstop deaf ears? –

- Could they really believe that all they had heard about and read about was coming true? – Surely not!

Here is a good possibility, and a strong suspicion....

- Everything on the inside of them was resonating a resounding yes like the perfect pitch of a brass bell...

- Everything on the outside of them couldn't get past the Pharisees and religious leaders condemning Jesus at every turn.

That being said, it was their turn to choose. They had followed the miracles of Jesus, and they loved the healing of Jesus; but for them to accept that Jesus is the Messiah meant that all of their religious leaders were wrong.

- Those people now had to decide...

- They had seen the Hero from heaven heal the hostage from hell, and now they cannot believe their

eyes because of what the Pharisees had put in their ears.

Here, you have the ultimate dichotomy to deal with. – You have Demons telling the truth, and lost men spewing lies.

(Now friend it wasn't true because the demons said so, it is true regardless of what any of them think. – but here is the hesitation in the crowd.)

- The Lord is going to deal with all of that in the next section; so where does that leave us here?

Conclusion: _____

Friend, no one needed to hear from a Demon to recognize Jesus, and no one needed the stamp of approval from the religious leaders to recognize Jesus as the Messiah

Anna and Simeon recognized Him when He was a baby. – They recognized Him through His word.

Nathaniel recognized Him when they first spoke. – He recognized Him through His way.

A Gentile Roman soldier recognized Him when his servant was sick. – He recognized Him through His Work.

Anyone with an honest heart, that gives an honest hearing, and an honest reception to dwell on the things of Christ, will come to recognize the truth of Jesus Christ.

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!” – Mark 9:4

“He really is too good not to be true.”