

BREAK IT DOWN ANGELS & DEMONS



MESSAGE: Demons

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What do you think about demons?

How do you feel about demons?

Demons have made a comeback

Two errors to avoid

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.” (C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*)

This will be our approach: not to ignore, not to obsess

Angels and Demons

Angels are:

Superhuman messengers sent by God to help humans do his will
Benevolent spiritual beings who love all that is good and true
Invisible helpers and friends on life’s journey

Demons are:

Angels who, because of pride, fell from their favored place with God
Malignant spiritual beings who traffic in all that is evil
Invisible enemies of Jesus and all who follow Jesus

Satan, demons, and Jesus

Satan and demons explode onto the scene during Jesus' life

Satan is ...

The lord and leader of all demons (highest/lowest of fallen angels)

"Then he will say, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matthew 25:41, NIV)

The hostile foe of God and God's purposes

"The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them." (Mark 4:14-15, NIV)

The unseen power behind every visible manifestation of evil

Referred to by several names, including the Devil, the Enemy, the Evil One, the tempter, the god of this world, a liar and the father of lies, the prince of the power of the air

Demons recognized, opposed, and feared Jesus

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" (Mark 5:6-8, NIV)

The job description of demons is to distort the image of God in humans

When the townspeople came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. (Mark 5:15, NIV)

Demons are Satan's servants sent to disfigure our humanity

Satan, demons, and us

Jesus' enemies are our enemies

"Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is." (C. S. Lewis)

Following Jesus is not like vacationing on a cruise ship ... it's like fighting on a battleship

We have three enemies that are closely connected

Enemy #1: The world

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. (1 John 2:15-16, NLT)

The evil values, systems, and structures in society that are opposed to God

When Satan perverts an institution or structure, we say it is demonic – the New Testament says the "powers" have taken over

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness ... (Ephesians 6:12, NASB)

Enemy #2: Your sinful nature

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. (Galatians 5:17, NLT)

Enemy #3: The Devil

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

How does Satan attack us?

Deception

Satan masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14, NIV)

Your defense: know God's voice so you can spot Satan's lies

Temptation

Your defense: stay close to God so Satan can't trip you so easily

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7, NIV)

Accusation

Your defense: believe what God says about you

Can people be demonized or demon-possessed today?

Three answers have been given:

Of course!

Never!

Yes, especially in cultures with a heightened sense of the spirit world

A stronghold is any area of my life where I have tried to shut out God

Satan and demons are real, but their power has a sunset clause

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure,
One little Word shall fell him.

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Romans 16:20, NIV)