How to Deal with Demons

By Adrian Rogers

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Main Scripture Text: Mark 1:21–28

"And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him."
MARK 1:25

Outline

Introduction
I. The Reality of the Demonic
  A. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Oppression
  B. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Obsession
  C. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Possession
II. The Authority of Jesus
  A. Demons Recognize Jesus' Full Deity and Authority
  B. Demons Have an Antipathy and a Hatred of Jesus
  C. Demons Have a Cringing Fear of Jesus
  D. Demons Must Always Yield to His Authority
III. The Victory of the Believer
  A. Legislation as an Answer
  B. Education as an Answer
  C. Environment as an Answer
Conclusion

Introduction

We're continuing in our series of sermons on the life of Christ from the book of Mark. Today, we come to an extraordinary passage of Scripture, Mark chapter 1, and we begin now in verse 21—Mark chapter 1 and verse 21: *"And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean*

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spirits, and they do obey him. And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee." (Mark 1:21–28)

This dramatic episode took place in a synagogue at Capernaum. Now those of you who have visited the Holy Land in all likelihood have visited this spot, because the ruins of that old synagogue—at least the foundation of that old synagogue—remain to this day. I believe that of all of the spots on earth, this spot is one of the most beautiful. That Sea of Galilee sits there like a topaz on the bosom of Mother Earth. And there at the northern part of the Sea of Galilee is this synagogue. And when Jesus came into this synagogue, as He began his public ministry, there came a confrontation with a demon-possessed man. I'm speaking today on dealing with the demonic, because, dear friend, whether you realize it or not, there is a demonic world out there. It is very real and very vicious, and you dare not be misinformed or uninformed, disinterested or uninterested. There is no way that you can avoid, one way or another, rightly or wrongly, dealing with the demonic.

When we were little boys, we had nothing better to do. We sometimes would go out in the yard and just roll over stones to see how many bugs were under them. And it was always interesting when you'd roll over a big rock that all of those slimy things, those creeping things, those wiggly squiggly things, those vile things, those foul things, would begin to scurry and run from the pure sunlight that would come down. They could not stand the light. They were creatures of the darkness. Something very similar happened that day in the synagogue when light came and Jesus exposed the kingdom of darkness. And there was a confrontation between light and dark. And this demon—or these demons—inhabiting this man recognized the purity, the unsullied holiness of the Lord Jesus, and they shrieked out and cried out in terror, because light had come that day and exposed the kingdom of darkness.

Now the word *occult* means "hidden." And there is a hidden world, a shadowy world of darkness. And I want to expose it today again through this book—God's Word. I want to throw the light of God's Word upon that dark kingdom. And I want you to learn some things as we speak today about dealing with the demonic.

I. The Reality of the Demonic

The first thing I would have you to recognize this morning is what I'm going to call the reality of the demonic—the reality of demons. Look again, if you will, in verse 23: *"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit."* (Mark 1:23) Now there is a spiritual world. And this world is very real out there, and the Bible does not deny it. The Bible, as a matter of fact, affirms it. Now I know that there are some who will laugh at the idea of demons and spirits, and they would be somewhat amazed that in this day, in this realm, that I, Adrian Rogers, a supposedly educated man, would speak to a

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twentieth-century congregation about the reality of demons. But I want to tell you, dear friend, there is no way possible that you can take this Bible at face value and deny the reality of the demonic.

Now I want to tell you something else. My experience in personal ministry is enough to make me affirm, also, the reality of the demonic. There are those who laugh. And this sophisticated age just simply arches its eyebrows, and they think that our problems are in the realm of housing and education and peace and all of these things. But they never solve the problem, because they never see the enemy.

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians chapter 6, verses 12 and 13, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers…against spiritual wickedness."* (Ephesians 6:12) It will be a great day in America when people learn that everything that is spiritual is not necessarily good. There is spiritual righteousness, and there is spiritual wickedness. The Bible says, *"Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God."* (1 John 4:1) We're wrestling against spiritual wickedness. Our battle today is not primarily against the communists, the pornographers, the IRS, or your mother-in-law. Dear friend, I want to tell you that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood; we are wrestling against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. And the reason that so many times we don't win the battle is, we don't show up for the war. We don't even know where the war is. And therefore we go down in defeat.

I heard about a boxer who was being horribly abused and beaten. His opponent was just too much for him. He came back to his corner between rounds and told his manager, "Throw in the towel: this guy is killing me." The manager said, "Oh, he hasn't laid a glove on you." And the boxer said, "Then, watch that referee, because somebody is killing me."

Dear friend, we sometimes try to explain it away. We say, "Well, he's not real." Well, I want to tell you: somebody is killing us, somebody is doing a lot of damage, and somebody is doing something horrible and terrible in this world in which we live. There is the reality of the demonic.

Who are these demon spirits? Where have they come from? Well, I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that I believe that they are fallen angels. You can read in Revelation chapter 12 and verse 4 about the great dragon. And that great dragon, the Bible tells us clearly, is the devil. And the Bible says that that great dragon, with his tail, swept a third of the stars from heaven, and they fell to the earth. (Revelation 12:4) Well, that didn't literally happen, nor will it literally happen. There is not room on earth for a third of the heavenly bodies. One star is millions of times bigger than Planet Earth. Those stars were the bright and morning stars. Those stars were the angelic preachers, who fell when Lucifer fell. Lucifer, his very name *Lucifer* means "light bearer." He was the "son of the morning." But when he fell, he became Satan, the father of the night.

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And when he rebelled against God, myriads of angel spirits rebelled against God with him.

The Bible speaks of these in 2 Peter chapter 2 and verse 4, and the Bible says, *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell…"*—angels that sinned; bright, shining angels that sinned. (2 Peter 2:4) The Bible speaks of these same angels in Jude verse 6: *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."* (Jude 1:6) These scriptures, and other scriptures, tell us that there are angels in rebellion against God, fallen angels, who have followed their leader, who is Lucifer. They are invisible. They are personal. They are powerful. And they have no bodies of their own. They seek to inhabit human bodies, therefore, to do the nefarious work through the minds, the bodies, and the personalities of human beings here on this earth.

And why do they do that? Why are demons so interested in afflicting human beings? Well, because of their hatred for God, and because of God's love for you. You see, the devil cannot get directly at God. But evil persons have always known that if you cannot harm someone, then harm someone that someone loves, and you have harmed them anyway. And so this is the reason that the devil takes such an interest in you. And there is a cosmic warfare. There is the reality of demons.

Now demons come against human beings in three basic ways.

A. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Oppression

Number one: oppression. In Acts chapter 10 and verse 38, the Bible tells us, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil."* (Acts 10:38) Now this word *oppressed* literally means "to rule over one; to take authority over somebody; as it were, to put someone else down; to exercise dominion." Do you remember over there in James chapter 2 and verse 6 where James is warning about the rich people, and James says, concerning the rich people, "Don't you understand that they oppress you?" *"Do not rich men oppress you?"* (James 2:6) And he uses the same word.

Now, you think of how the rich may oppress the poor, how the rich may take advantage over the poor, and how the rich may exercise their power and their authority. I'm talking about unscrupulous rich people, ungodly people. Now then, you have some understanding what this word *oppressed* means. And so the devil knows how to harass you. The devil knows how to hassle you. The devil knows how to take advantage of you. And demon spirits will oppress you. There are many in this congregation who know what it is to be oppressed by the devil. And the devil would oppress every one of us. The devil would oppress me. You know, I used to think that in my battle with the devil and my battle with demon spirits the main thing I had to do was not to sin, and then the

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battle would be over. Friend, you can be perfectly righteous and still do battle with the devil. Jesus did. The devil came to Jesus to oppress Jesus. That's what he was doing. It was oppression. There is a cosmic war; and the more I live, and the more I preach, the more I see that I am in a war daily with spiritual powers who would oppress us.

B. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Obsession

Now that's one way the devil works through demons: oppression. The other way the devil works is through obsession—not oppression, but obsession. Now the Bible calls this obsession *vexing* in Luke chapter 6 and verse 18: *"And they that were vexed with unclean spirits."* (Luke 6:18) The Bible speaks of unclean spirits there *vexing* people. Look in Acts chapter 5 and verse 16: *"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits."* (Acts 5:16) Now Webster says that the words *vex* and *obsess* are synonymous. So I would use the word *obsessed* rather than the word *vexed*, because I think we're more familiar with the word *obsessed*.

But, you see, there is oppression; and then, there is obsession. Now the oppression is primarily from without. This is the way the devil would mob you, harass you, hassle you, and this is the way the devil would intimidate you and do war with you. That is oppression. But obsession is not from without; it is more from within. It deals more with the mind. It deals more with the spirit. And you see people today who are obsessed with obsessions.

And I believe that more people have demonic obsessions in this world than we would ever dare dream. People are obsessed with sex. I don't mean that they have a healthy attitude toward sex. I mean, this is the pornographer or the reader of pornography. There is an obsession. There is something that fills their mind. There are people who are obsessed with drugs. There are people who are obsessed with hatred and with revenge. There are people who have all kind of weird and strange ideas that drive them and mold them, and they are in a sense caught up and swept along. There's something that fills their minds, consumes their energies, and just drives them and drives them and drives them in a particular way. It's not normal. They have what we would call today an obsession. The Bible speaks of those who were obsessed with unclean spirits. All of these obsessions are unclean: drugs, sex, revenge, pride, and greed.

Oh, there are a lot of you who are not obsessed with sex; you're obsessed with money. It's an obsession. The businessman, I mean, he may be the finest businessman in America today, and everybody says, "What a wonderful businessman he is!" But he has an obsession. He's not making money; he's just keeping score. He doesn't need any more money. But he can't stop. He can't even stop to do those legitimate things, because he's driven, driven, driven, driven, driven! He has an obsession. Do you know

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people who are obsessed today? Of course you do! All around, people are obsessed. And there's something very wicked about this obsession. It comes from Satan.

C. Demons Come Against Human Beings through Possession

All right now, look. There is oppression. There is obsession. And then, thirdly, there is possession. There is possession. That's the third way that the devil comes against people. Now, notice here in Mark chapter 1, it speaks actually of this possession, and in verse 32 it speaks of it more clearly: *"And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils."* (Mark 1:32) And incidentally, every time you read the word *devils* in the plural, you may translate it "demons." There is only one devil, but many demons. And the Greek word here that is translated *devils* literally means "demons"—"those that are possessed with demons."

Now, what is a possessed person? Well, this is when that demon is not oppressing, or obsessing, but he has actually moved in; he has taken up residence. And that demon spirit begins to occupy the place that belongs to God the Holy Spirit in the human spirit. You see, the way that we are meant to operate is this: God the Holy Spirit is meant to dwell in man's human spirit. And man's human spirit is linked with God's Holy Spirit, which is to give direction to the soul: the mind, emotion, and the will. And then the mind, the emotion, and the will are to tell the body what to do. And the body is to go out into the world and express the life of the Lord Jesus; the Holy Spirit in the human spirit, and the human spirit speaking to the human soul; the mind, the emotion, and the will telling the body, the hands, the eyes, and the feet what to do, where to go, and what to say.

And then I express the life of the Lord Jesus as He inhabits my humanity and His deity is made real through my humanity. I am possessed of God's Holy Spirit, you see. That's the way I'm supposed to live. I am possessed. He comes into me. He possesses me. And I am His temple, and He lives in me. Now it is possible for the devil, through one of His demons, to come in and take that place that belongs to God the Holy Spirit, and so possess that person that he is to the human spirit what the Holy Spirit is supposed to do. And he so takes control of that human spirit, because he possesses that individual, that then he controls the mind, the emotion, and the will. And all kinds of terrible and horrible things are worked out in the mind and the body and the emotions. And this man is expressing the life of Satan in his life. And Satan rather than God is getting the glory, because that man has been possessed; that man has been possessed by a demonic spirit.

Okay? That's possession. Now the question comes, can a child of God be demon-possessed? I do not think so. A child of God can be oppressed. And don't say he can't, because I have, and so have you; and anybody who has done battle, you know oppression. And a child of God, if he's not careful, can be obsessed. And that's the

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thing that Paul is warning about in Ephesians chapter 4 when he says, “Don’t give a place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27) Don’t you let the devil come in and make some thought, some part of your mind, some part of your psyche a dirty campground and have some obsession come into you. But I don’t believe a child of God can be possessed, for, dear friend, in order for you to be possessed, first of all, the Holy Spirit would have to be dispossessed. I mean, the Holy Spirit of God would have to move out before the demon could move in.

You see, when you get saved, you receive God’s Holy Spirit, and He comes to abide with you forever. And He says, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5) And I don’t believe that the enemy could ever dispossess that which belongs to Almighty God. But that doesn’t mean therefore that you will not have to do battle with the demonic. You may be oppressed. Many are oppressed of the devil. I mean, the saints of God are harassed by the enemy. And many of the saints of God have given a place to the enemy. And they have been obsessed by the enemy. So therefore we need to learn something about the demonic—the reality of demons. Here was a man with an unclean spirit—the reality of the demonic.

II. The Authority of Jesus

The second thing I would have you to learn is not only the reality of the demonic, but I would also have you to learn the authority of Jesus. Now, look here in the Scripture again, if you will, in verse 21: *“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”* And then, verse 23: *“And there was in the their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority”*—underscore that: *“for with authority”—“commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.”* (Mark 1:21–27) Jesus said, “All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18) Jesus has authority over all the power of the enemy.

Now we need to understand that there’s not some sort of a dualism with Satan over here, and God over here, and there’s a battle of royalty, and we’re still waiting to see who is going to win. Satan has been defeated. Jesus has authority over the enemy. We need to understand this. And that’s the reason our Lord said, “Behold, I give unto you authority over all the power of the enemy.” (Luke 10:19) Christ has that authority, and as

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we're going to see in a moment, He has given us that authority.

Now I want you to learn four things that demons think about Jesus, or four things that are true about demons in relation to Jesus.

A. Demons Recognize Jesus' Full Deity and Authority

Number one: They recognize His full deity and authority. "We know who you are, the Holy One of God." They recognized that. I tell you, the devil is more orthodox than some theologians I know. Some theologians haven't even gotten up to the level of the devil. *"We know thee who thou art."* Heaven has already said in this chapter, *"Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Mark 1:11) And now hell has to confess the same thing that heaven has confessed: *"I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God."* (Mark 1:24) Demons recognize the deity and the authority of Jesus Christ.

B. Demons Have an Antipathy and a Hatred of Jesus

The second thing I would have you to notice is that demons have an antipathy and a hatred of Jesus: "Let us alone; leave us alone." Every demon-possessed person does not want to hear the things of God—the real things of God. Oh, they may come to a worship service; they may sit around and listen to a conversation; but when Jesus Christ in all of His purity and all of His loveliness is presented, they will say, "Leave me alone."

Have you ever heard anybody say, "Hey, don't preach to me. Leave me alone. I don't want to hear this stuff?" Of course they don't want to hear it, because it is that demon spirit that has oppressed them, or obsessed them, or possessed them, that says, "Get out of here with that. The darkness cannot stand the light. Leave us alone. Don't roll that rock over. Put it back. We want to stay here in the mud, the ooze, the slime, and the darkness. We do not want that light shone upon us." Now the unsaved man may not realize why he doesn't like the gospel. He may not realize why he has an antipathy, a hatred, toward the things of God. But he is the victim of that foul demon who has that hatred of Jesus.

C. Demons Have a Cringing Fear of Jesus

Now, the third thing I would have you to understand is that not only is there a recognition of Jesus; not only is there a hatred of Jesus; but I'll tell you that the third thing is this, dear friend: There is a cringing fear of Jesus. *"Art thou come to destroy us?"* (Mark 1:24) Oh, how these demons cringe before their Lord and Master! And, dear friend, what I am trying to tell you is this: *"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4) It will help you to know. It will help you to understand that Christ Jesus has authority over all of the powers of darkness. And no child of God need ever fear Satan—never! Be aware of him. Be vigilant. Be sober. But do not be afraid. They

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are afraid of you when you recognize your power—who you are in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

D. Demons Must Always Yield to His Authority

And the last thing you must understand is that they must always yield to His authority. Jesus said, "Be still." It literally means "Be muzzled"—that's what the Greek is. Have you see a dog with a muzzle? "Be muzzled"—that's an exact translation. Jesus dealt with that demon as a wild, yapping, snarling beast. "Be still, and come out of him." And he came out. The Bible says that he tore him. "And with a loud voice he cried as he came out of him." (Mark 1:25–26) What does it mean, "he *tore* him"? Did he actually hurt him physically? No—because if you will read in Luke chapter 4 the same story there, Luke says, "He did him no harm." (Luke 4:35)

But what does that tell us? It means this: *Satan never gives up anybody or anything without a fight.* He shrieks as a demon in agony and in pain. There's a battle there. And if we could only understand that, dear friend: that your friends, your neighbors, your father, your mother, your brother, your sister, or your children who have been inhabited by a foul demon, or who have been manipulated by a demon, there's a battle there. There's a battle. And that's the reason later on—and we're going to see it in this Gospel of Mark—when the disciples tried to cast the demon out, they weren't able to do it. Jesus said, "This kind cometh forth by nothing but by praying and fasting." (Mark 9:29)

There's a battle. Don't you just sally forth and say, "Oh, I have authority over all of the power of the enemy." Friend, unless you are living with God; unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit; unless you are claiming—I don't mean theoretically; I mean actually—that power of Jesus Christ in your life, then you don't understand the power of our enemy. But you do understand, my dear friend, the greater power of Jesus Christ, and the authority of Jesus rightly applied over the power of the enemy. Demons must obey him.

III. The Victory of the Believer

Now I've talked to you, first of all, about the reality of the demonic. I've talked to you, secondly, about the authority of Jesus. Now, let me talk to you, thirdly, about the victory of the believer. Now the Bible says here that these demons came out. Then you are going to find out later on, as we study Mark, that Jesus gave His disciples the power to cast out demons. Then He sent out seventy and gave them power, and they came back reporting, "Why, even the demons were subject to us through your name." (Luke 10:17) Then you are going to find out later on that He gives the Great Commission and says, "All authority is given unto me," (Matthew 28:18) and He says, "I give you authority over all the power of the enemy." (Luke 10:19) And we are to have victory. Where is this

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victory coming from? You see, the reason, friend, that we are not having victory in our world today is that we are fighting on the wrong battlefront.

Do you want me to tell you the three things that the world is trying to use today? Legislation, education, and environment.

A. Legislation as an Answer

Legislation: They think that if we make enough laws, then we are going to be able to control mankind. And I'm not against laws, as such, but the problem is we don't even have enough prisons to warehouse the criminals. I mean, they're stacking up on us. And legislation alone indeed is not the answer.

There's an old story I've shared with you before about a dad and his son. And the little boy, about four years old, wouldn't sit down. He said, "Son, I said, 'Sit down.'" So finally the dad took the little fellow by both shoulders and sat him forcibly in a chair. The little fellow sat there and looked up at his dad and said, "I'm standing up on the inside." Now law can only deal with outside; it cannot deal with the heart.

B. Education as an Answer

And then, we try not only legislation, but we try education. It's amazing how many people think that education is the answer.

Did you know that Hitler was a demon-possessed man? Hitler was a demon-possessed man. And over Nazi Germany he had rule. Nazi Germany was one of the most erudite, educated, learned, sophisticated nations on the face of this earth. And yet that was the nation of the gas ovens and all of the horrors of Nazi Germany. Education is not the answer. You see, if a man is controlled by the devil, then you educate him, what have you got? A clever devil. You've got a smart devil.

That's the reason why somebody said, "You can take an ordinary man—an ordinary sinner—and he'll steal off a boxcar; you give him an education, and he'll steal the whole railroad." He just knows more how to be evil. You see, education is not the answer.

C. Environment as an Answer

Somebody else says, "Well, environment is the answer. What happens is, all of these people are living in these terrible conditions; and you change the environment, and you'll change the man." You've got it just backward. I want to ask you a question. Where did man get in trouble? In the Garden of Eden. You'll never have a better environment than that, will you? I mean, the Garden of Eden! That's where man got in trouble to begin with.

Now I am for legislation, I am for education, and I am for a better environment. I'm for better housing and all of that. Don't anybody go out of here and say I'm not. But I'm saying, dear friend, if that's all you do, then you have never ever really addressed the

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problem. All you're doing is giving aspirin. You're not dealing with the infection. You see, *"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers…against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Ephesians 6:12) Where is the answer? Dear friend, I want to tell you that the answer is in the Lord Jesus Christ. And Mark begins his Gospel, and he starts out his Gospel—I mean, right away—letting us know there is no doubt whatever that Jesus, our dear wonderful Savior, has given us the victory.

Conclusion

Those of you who are children of God—I mean, those of you who are saved and Spirit-filled—you are going to know a conflict with the enemy. Jesus Christ did. Mark has already told us how Jesus had met the devil in the wilderness. And you're going to meet him. Thank God, hallelujah, I am telling you that God has given you authority over all the power of the enemy! And I am telling you that Satan has no threat; temptation has no allurement; sin has no hold that the child of God cannot break in the power of Jesus Christ. Thank God for that.

For those who are oppressed, and those of you who are obsessed, you say, "Oh, God, I know I'm saved, but I have thoughts; I have ambitions; I have proclivities; I have things that seem to push me and drive me and mold me. And I don't want these things." Dear friend, it is time that you get alone in the prayer closet or get with some prayer warriors and say in the name of Jesus, "Satan, I take authority over you. And I give back to God the ground that I've given to Satan." And in repentance, clean up your life. And say to that evil spirit, "Be gone, in the name of Jesus. I have no more traffic with you. I have no more thoroughfare. I have no more dealings with you. And in the name of Jesus, I refuse you, resist you, and rebuke you." And the Bible says: *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

And then, for those of you dear friends who are unsaved, you may not be demon-possessed, but you're a candidate for it. You're a candidate for it. He's watching. He's waiting. And all of the mysteries of iniquity many of us don't know. But I do know, dear friend, that if he has an opportunity, he will invade your personality, take up a place in you, and will make it extremely difficult—almost, well, if not impossible, apart from a miracle of God—that you be saved. And that's the reason you need to be saved today. It's the reason you need to give your heart to Jesus. You need to be born again. Receive Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.

Martin Luther, who led the Protestant Reformation, somebody asked him, "Martin, how do you manage to live victoriously over Satan?" Martin Luther said, "When Satan comes and knocks at my door, Jesus goes to answer the door. And Satan says, 'Who lives here?' And Jesus says, 'Martin Luther used to live here, but he has moved out,

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and I live here now.' And," he says, "when Satan sees those nail-pierced hands, he leaves immediately." And when the devil comes to knock at your heart's door, you can send Jesus. And I want to tell you right now that Jesus is knocking at your heart's door, and He wants in. He says, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him."* (Revelation 3:20)

I want every head bowed and every eye closed—no one stirring, no one looking around. Isn't it wonderful? Isn't it wonderful, I say, that Jesus is knocking at your heart's door? And He wants to come in. And when He comes in, He will forgive your sin. He will cleanse you, and then He will fill you with His own presence. He will take control of your life and begin now to make you the person He wants you to be. While heads are bowed and eyes are closed, if you want Jesus as your personal Savior, would you just tell Him right now, "O Lord, I want you to save me. I want you to save me. O God, I need you, I want you, to save me."

And I want to pray for you. Father, I pray, O my God, that many in this building today will say an everlasting *yes* to Jesus and truly, truly surrender to Him. Father, we stand against the enemy. We bring Jesus Christ against him. And, Lord, like little children now, we look to you for the victory. In His wonderful name. Amen.

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