

## **If You Knew What a Devil Knows**

**(Mark 5:1-13)**

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**Sunday Morning, August 28, 2016**

As Jesus walked upon this earth, He constantly encountered the lowest members of society. He lovingly sought those who “polite society” has seemingly forgotten and we would do well to learn from His example. The Bible says, “. . . *not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world. . .*” (1 Cor. 1:26). Jesus Himself said, “*I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance*”. That is exactly what we see the Lord doing in this passage— going after a lost, broken man, who has been possessed with “an unclean spirit”.

This unclean spirit that Christ rebukes in the passage is a type of being that in other places is called “a devil”. As a matter of fact, many times during Christ’s earthly ministry, He would describe the root of a man’s problem as being devil possession.

Now I know what some of you are thinking! How crazy! How unscientific to still believe in devils and devil possession! And, yet, the Bible makes it very clear that there is a Devil, called Satan, and he has many devils that do his bidding. Rest assured, if you do not believe that devils possess and oppress men and women, then you are in disagreement with Jesus Christ; for He often dealt with devils!

The problem is that some of you think devil possession is like what you see in the movies— somebody’s head spinning around and throwing up pea soup. That’s not it! Devil possession is far different and far more common. It goes on in schools and hospitals. It goes on in the city, the suburbs, and the country. It goes on amongst the wealthy as well as the poor. And it most certainly goes on in churches, just like this one!

Now, just look at the conversation that the Lord has with the unclean spirit in this lost man. When he saw Jesus a great way off he ran and said, “*What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God?*”. That tells me something! It tells me that that unclean spirit knew who Jesus is. As a matter of fact, that devil knew a lot more about Jesus than even His own followers did! He knew more about Jesus than the religious scholars of that day did! And, I believe, that devil knew more about Jesus than most today know as well.

Considering that thought, this morning I’m going to title the message “If You Knew What a Devil Knows”. If you knew what the devils know. . .

1. The first thing you would know is that There is a God.

There in verse 7, that devil or devils named Legion says, “*I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not*”. He didn’t have any problems knowing and understanding that there is a God.

Across much of this world, especially in academic circles, there has been a movement toward Atheism and Agnosticism going on for quite some time. The Atheist, proudly standing upon the shifting and sinking sand of so-called science, says that there is no God. He claims that this world is all one great big accident. One day a stray atom simply exploded for no reason and kept spreading outward until a universe came to be. Accidentally, a piece of heated rock from the sun flung outward, landed just in the proper orbit, and developed an atmosphere to sustain life. That is what he truly believes. But, to the atheist, the Bible says, “*The fool hath said in his heart there is no God*” (Ps. 14:1).

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Then there's the Agnostic. He claims that, while there may be a God somewhere, He cannot possibly be known or understood by mankind. And, yet the Bible has the answer for the Agnostic, just as for the Atheist. It says, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them"* (Rom. 1:18-19). God has openly and repeatedly revealed Himself to mankind so that the Agnostic and the Atheist is without excuse.

If you don't know there is a God this morning, then you are lower than the lowest devil. If you knew what a devil knows, you would know there is a God.

2. Then you would also know Who God is.

In James 2, the Bible says, *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble"*. The idea is that a lot of groups preach that there is only one God, but that doesn't save them anymore than it saves a devil. The unclean spirits not only know that there is A God, but they know exactly who He is!

That's where Islam gets it all wrong. They believe in one true god, but they get his name and his nature all wrong. They say "Blessed be Allah!" when, in fact, Allah is not even a name! Allah is simply the Arabic word for "god". My God has a name, friend! He caught Moses over there by the burning bush and Moses said, "What should I tell the people when they ask me who sent me?" God said, I AM THAT I AM hath sent thee! That's Jehovah!

When the angel spoke to Joseph, he said, *"...thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins"*. Jesus is "Jehovah who saves"! God manifest in the flesh! The Son of the most high God!

The Koran says that Allah never had a son! Judaism says God never had a son! The so-called scholars say it is impossible for God to have had a son! But that old devil back here in Mark 5 called Him *"Jesus, thou Son of the most high God"*! Glory!

This morning, maybe you're sitting here saying there can't be just one God. There can't possibly be just one way to Heaven. Well, I'm not making fun of you, but you've got less sense than a devil! They know who God is... He is none other than Jesus Christ!

3. But that's not all. If you knew what that devil knew, you'd know Who the Lord's servants are

Over in Acts 19, there were some lost Jews who had seen all that the Apostle Paul was able to do through the power of God— healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out unclean spirits. They thought it was just a gimmick and so they decided to try it out themselves. One of them came upon a fella who was possessed with a devil and he said, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth, Come out of him!" In verse 15 of that chapter, the Bible records the response of that devil. He said, *"Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?"*. And he attacked them and wounded them.

That tells me that a devil knows who has God's presence and power and who doesn't. They know a consecrated Christian from a carnal Christian! I'm amazed at how many people can't figure that out though.

You know what this world thinks? They think someone is a good Christian if they give to charity, and support equality, and talk sweet, and never say anything negative. If you do that, they'll think you're the best Christian they've ever met. The only problem is, they're dead wrong!

Some Christians think that way too. You know why some of these social clubs masquerading as churches are doing so well? Because they haven't had the Lord show up there in years! And, as long as there is no Bible preaching, no scriptural singing, and no conviction, they'll enjoy it there all the more.

The devils aren't that foolish. They know where the Lord is working. They know it, because that is where they are attacking! They don't need to attack most church and most Christians, because they have nothing to fear from them anyway. The reason the devils of hell don't attack some of you is because they have nothing to fear from you! But they know the Lord's servants.

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4. Lastly, if you knew what a devil knows, you'd know To obey His command.

You look at this unclean spirit, or spirits, that was in this man. When Jesus commands it to come out of the man, it doesn't argue or hesitate. That devil simply said, "Where do you want me to go and how fast?"

When Jesus later encountered a devil that was tormenting a man's son. The Bible says that the disciples could not cast it out. But Jesus simply said, "*Come out of him, and enter no more into him*" (Mk.9:25).

I want you to get ahold of that. The devils, as wicked as they are, know to obey the Lord, but most Christians do not. He tells you to live a holy life— "*Be ye holy, as I am holy*"— but you don't. He tells you to seek to win souls— "*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel unto every creature*"— but you find other things more important, so you don't.

The Lord tells you to go to church every time it meets together— "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*"— but you don't. He tells you to pray without ceasing, but you don't. To read and study the word of God, but you don't.

You know what the problem is. The devils have more sense than some Christians have. They obey the Lord and we don't.