



PhD: Power Over The Host of Devils!

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force ” (Mathew 11:12)

Bulletin VCM-MJ03

02 February 2014

Jesus' message that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force, is equally applicable in contemporary times as it was when it was first spoken. To succeed in life, we must not only acquire but regularly demonstrate PhD. This message will show you how.

“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. **22** And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. **23** And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, **24** 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. **25** And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. **26** And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, inso-much that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him” (Mark 1:21-27).

“And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, **34** 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. **35** And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. **36** And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. **37** And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about” (Luke 4:33-37).

- 1) One miracle with two complementary narrators. We all have a part to play in telling the wholesome story of God from our perspectives.
- 2) “And they went into Capernaum” (vs 21). Jesus was always on the Go, and we must in order to accomplish the great commission.

“And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him” (Mark 1:25).

- 3) “And straightway on the Sabbath day He entered into the synagogue” (vs 21). We must not delay about divine service on the Lord's day.
- 4) “He taught them as one that had authority” (vs 22). Teaching preceded miracles. The word of God is the foundation for miracles.
- 5) Demons become agitated at Christ's presence (vs 23-24; 33-34). This man probably mingled in as one of the normal worshippers and the devils in him would probably have not been detected without Christ's presence. Divine presence disturbs and provokes reaction from demons. They act like dogs who are calm and friendly with their owners but agitate and bark at strangers!.
- 6) Demons have no respect for Sabbath nor for proper decorum during worship, hence their manifestation on a Sabbath day. Therefore believers should not hesitate to cast them out on a Sabbath or any day for that matter.
- 7) “I/we know thee” (vs 24, 34). Recall Acts 19:15 “And the evil spirit answered and said, **Jesus I know**, and Paul **I know**; but who are ye?” How do devils know you? Do they know and fear you as they did Jesus, or despise and possess you as they did this man?
- 8) “Jesus rebuked him” (vs 25, 35). The right response to demons is authoritative rebuke, and not a dialogue. Devils are liars in any case, so dialogue may not reveal any truth, but rather divert attention and dissipate energy.
- 9) Deliverance after fruitless last ‘drama’ (vs 26, 35). Deliverance may be preceded by drama.
- 10) Amazement of the people (vs 27, 36). The worshippers were amazed that the unclean spirits obeyed Jesus.
- 11) The fame of Jesus spreads (vs 37). Testimonies of the deliverance glorifies God and advance the work and fame of Jesus.