

## RESTORATION THROUGH HUMILITY

### EZEKIEL 33:21-29

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. **PROVERBS 16.18:** “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (cf. Prov. 18.12; Gen. 3.4,5)
2. Prophesying to the captives in Babylon, Ezekiel warned that destruction was coming unless they repented. (Ezek. 33.1-20)
3. In Ezekiel 33.21-29, Israel’s pride went before their destruction.

#### I. THE ARROGANCE OF ISRAEL

- A. Israel was headstrong.
  1. **EZEKIEL 33.21,22:** After the city was destroyed, one escaped and reported back to Ezekiel.
  2. Ezekiel was made mute as a sign that rebellious Israel would not listen to God. (Ezek. 3.26)
- B. Israel was haughty.
  1. **EZEKIEL 24.18:** Ezekiel was not allowed to mourn after God takes his wife. (cf. vs. 15-17)
  2. **EZEKIEL 24.21:** God foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, the city in which they took great pride.
  3. **EZEKIEL 24.24:** They were to react as Ezekiel did.
  4. **EZEKIEL 24.26,27:** When Jerusalem was destroyed, Ezekiel would no longer be mute.

#### II. THE ARROGANCE OF THE SURVIVORS

- A. The survivors had a sense of entitlement.
  1. **EZEKIEL 33.23,24:** They were entitled because they were the descendants of Abraham. (cf. Matt. 3.8)
  2. There are Christians today who believe they are entitled because of their associations. (Ezek. 18.20)
- B. The survivors lost their rights to the city.
  1. **EZEKIEL 33.25,26:** The sins of Israel.
  2. **EZEKIEL 33.25,26:** “Should you then possess the land?”

#### III. THE APPLICATION FOR YOU

- A. A humble heart will realize its vulnerability.
  1. We are Abraham’s descendants. (Gal. 3.7)
  2. But we can still fall. (1 Cor. 10.12)
- B. A humble heart will acknowledge sin. (1 John 1.8-10)

**CONCLUSION:** God dwells with the humble. (Isa. 57.15)

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”  
-Mark 16.15

**August 8, 2021**

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#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

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#### SERVING GOD EVERY DAY

It is true that we ought to attend the worship of the church “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some*” (Heb. 10.25). In fact, our regular attendance is commanded.

However, our weekly assembly does not represent the totality of our spiritual duties. Indeed, a weekend Christian is a weakened Christian. While God desires worship every first day of the week, true Christians are every day Christians.

Every day we are threatened with temptation and forced to confront the wiles of the devil. It is not enough to meet on the first day of the week to combat our adversary. Instead we “*exhort one another daily*” (Heb. 3.13). Just as we get dressed to go to work or school every day, we also daily ought to “*put on the whole armor of God*” (Eph. 6.10).

Let us always look to the example of Paul who did not serve God once or twice a week. Every day he fought temptation. Every day he sacrificed. Every day he set out to do the work of the Lord. It was such a way of life that Paul writes that he is in jeopardy “*every hour*” and that he “*dies daily*” (1 Cor. 15.30,31).

How often do you serve God? It cannot merely be a weekly endeavor, but must be a way of life (Phil. 1.21). CLP

## FIGHTING YOUR DEMONS

### MARK 5:9

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. We talk about demons figuratively to refer to our struggles, but what does the Bible say about demons?
2. Three Bible observations about demons.
  - a) Demons are real. (James 2.19)
  - b) Demons are spirit beings. (Eph. 6.12)
  - c) Demon are under the rule of Satan and seek to exert bad influence in our lives. (Matt. 25.41; 1 Tim. 4.1; 2 cor. 12.7)
3. In Mark 5, Jesus encounters a man who was being brutalized by demons. (Mark. 5.3-5)

#### I. THE MIRACLE

- A. Jesus intimidated the demons.
  1. They were intimidated by Jesus as evidence by what they did to Jesus. (Mark 5.2)
  2. They were intimidated by Jesus as evidenced by what they said to Jesus. (Mark 5.6-8)
  3. They were intimidated by Jesus even though they outnumbered Him. (Mark 5.9,10)
- B. Jesus eliminated the demons.
  1. Jesus sent the demons into swine. (Mark 5.11-13)
  2. This demonstrates the power of Jesus. (Matt. 8.32)

#### II. HOW DO WE FIGHT DEMONS TODAY?

- A. Do demons possess the bodies of individual today?
  1. You never read about demon possession in the Old Testament. Spirits often refer to attitudes. (1 Sam. 16.4)
  2. Demon possession is found in the New Testament with the last reference in Acts. (Acts 19.15,16)
  3. Demon possession is beyond our ability. (1 Cor. 10.13)
- B. Through providence, demons seek to hurt God's people.
  1. This man had no residence, no relationships, no rest, and no relief. (Mark 5.3,5; Matt. 8.28; Luke 8.27)
  2. The devil and his demons want to hurt us. (1 Pet. 5.8)
- C. Jesus helps us fight against demons.
  1. Jesus helped this man with his demons. (Mark 5.18-20)
  2. Jesus helps us today. (Heb. 9.24; 1 John 2.1)

**CONCLUSION:** If you are struggling with demons, Jesus can help.

## WHO IS GOD?

In our society, God is portrayed as being like man. We assume that God ignores the same immorality that we overlook. If we are too busy to give our time and attention to someone in need, then certainly God does likewise. Our society is not unique in those assumptions. God did not immediately condemn the nation of Israel which led them to conclude that God accepted their behavior. God responded, *"These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes"* (Ps. 50.21). Let's take a moment to think about His character.

**GOD IS LOVE.** The apostle John tells us that *"love is of God"* (1 John 4.7). The idea is not that love is in God's possession, but that love is the very essence of God. The word "love" describes wanting what is best for the one who is loved. Why did God give His only begotten Son? He wanted what was best for us (John 3.16). We are also told that if we belong to God we must be people who desire what is best for others, for *"everyone who loves is born of God and knows God"* (1 John 4.7).

**GOD IS FAITHFUL.** The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians about his plan to visit them. In reference to his promise to visit them, he write, *"But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No"* (1 Cor. 1.18). Paul's promise would not be wavering between yes and no but would be reliable just as God is reliable. When God makes a promise, we can count on Him being true to His word. God promised that a way to escape temptation will always be provided (1 Cor. 10.13). God promised eternal life through Jesus Christ to those who obey Him (Titus 1.2). He promised that those who reject Him will themselves be rejected (2 Tim. 2.13). We can always count on God being true to His word.

**GOD IS LIGHT.** To Christians who denied their own sins, the apostle John wrote that *"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all"* (1 John 1.5). God's purity is so evident that Habakkuk did not understand how a God of such purity could use a wicked nation to destroy His people (Hab. 1.13). God is light, and if we desire fellowship with Him, we must also walk in the light (1 John 1.7).

God's nature both in His deity and in His character give us reason to praise Him and rejoice in Him. CLP