

JESUS IS GREATER THAN DEMONS

Part 3 of Simply Jesus

The Cornerstone Youth Group. October 15, 2025.

THE APOSTLES' CREED: WE BELIEVE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The one, holy, catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY: INTRODUCTION

Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum to make their base in the town. It was a fishing and trade center on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

On the sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue to worship. After teaching, he confronted an unclean spirit or demon.

MARK 1:21-28 (CSB)

Mark 1:21-28 (CSB) They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. 22 They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

23 Just then, a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, 24 “What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God! ”

25 Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him! ” 26 And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28 At once, the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

WHAT IS AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT?

The terms, demon (x13 in Mark) and unclean spirit (x11 in Mark) are used interchangeably in the New Testament. But what do they mean?

1. Demons or unclean spirits are **real**.
2. Some believe they are evil, fallen **angels** who serve Satan in his rebellion against God (2 Peter 2:4). He is called their “ruler” in Matthew 9:34.
3. Others think demons are unseen, spirit beings (not angels) who oppose God and his kingdom, and seek to hurt people, at times by occupying their bodies.

4. Demons can cause physical and mental **destruction**, for example:

Mark 9:17-18 (CSB) Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that prevents him from speaking. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.”

5. Demons can **control** people: The man in the synagogue at Capernaum was completely controlled by an evil spirit.
6. Demons know who Jesus is. It acknowledged the authority in Jesus’ teaching and so reacted violently. It recognized Jesus as “the Holy One of God.”

JESUS CONTROLLED THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT

Mark 1:25 (CSB) Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him! " 26 And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

Notice how Jesus reacted to the unclean spirit?

- Did Jesus panic?
- Did Jesus seem to be frightened?
- Did Jesus recite spells and incantations?
- Did he shout and jump around?
- Did he rebuke the spirit and take control of it?

What happened next?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

How can we know when a demon is controlling someone?

Can we take control of evil spirits when they manifest themselves?

Mark 3:14-15 (CSB) Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach, 15 and to have authority to drive out demons (See also Acts 8:4-8; 16:16-18).

How can we take control of evil spirits? Only by claiming the authority of Jesus and the gospel. Look up Ephesians 6:10-18.