

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: Miracles of Exorcisms

Learning Goals: Students should be able to define the concept of exorcism and list examples of Jesus' spiritual miracles.

Question: Do you think spiritual warfare happens today? Why or why not?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Define Exorcism:

Casting out a demon from a person or place

Read Matthew 12:22-32

- Connection to Matthew 12:29 (Mark 3:27) - "Binding the Strong Man." Without doubt Jesus came to make "open war on the reign of Satan."
- This is a question of who really has authority - Jesus or Satan
- Jesus is accused of casting out demon by the power of Beelzebul (prince of demons) - this was a capital offense punishable by stoning
- Exorcisms fulfill prophecy: the Old Testament promise of the final Sabbath rest and the presence of God's eschatological kingdom necessitated the destruction of the forces opposed to the divine order (Isa. 29:20; 33:14; 61:2).
- Ultimately, this is not a fair fight - Jesus greatly outmatches the opponent

Jesus cures the Geresene demoniac (Luke 8:26-39)

- Why does Jesus call the demon "unclean"? Connection to ritual purity.
- This is an extension of Jesus' ministry to set the captives free
- The demons recognized Jesus and knew of his power; they acknowledged that he was superior
- Demons cast into pigs (must have been Gentile farmers)
- Demonic seeks to take life

Typical Phenomena regarding the demonic in the Gospels:

- a disregard for personal dignity (nakedness)
- social isolation
- retreat to the simplest kind of shelter
- demons' recognition of Jesus' deity
- demonic control of speech
- shouting
- extraordinary strength

Additional Examples of Jesus and exorcisms:

- *Jesus cast out an unclean spirit (Mark 1:23-28).*
- *Jesus cures the Geresene demoniac (Luke 8:26-39)*
- *Jesus cured two demoniacs (Matthew 8:28-34).*
- *Jesus loosened the tongue of a man who could not speak (Matthew 9:32-33).*
- *Jesus cured a demon-possessed man (Matthew 12:22ff).*
- *Jesus cured a boy who was plagued by a demon (Matthew 17:14-21).*
- *Jesus cured a man of dropsy (Luke 14:1-4).*
- *Jesus healed the daughter of a woman of Canaan (Matthew 15:22-28).*

Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Exorcism
- How are Jesus' exorcisms connected to the idea of "binding the strong man" (Mark 3:27)?