

“More than Meets the Eye”

December 7th & 8th, 2013

Luke 8:26-39

This month we celebrate the birth of Christ! As Christians we do not celebrate the day but the greatest event in all of History – the day God took on the form of a human and was born in the likeness of man. Today, the focus of this Christmas season for many in our nation is very materialistic, but for us as Christians, this worldly custom does not negate the miracle of the birth of the Son of God! There are many reasons given in Scripture why Jesus came to earth, but one in particular for us to remember...

“...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

“We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” 1 John 5:19

❖ **Jesus revealed that there is much more happening around us than meets the eye!**

Today, the Secular Humanistic Worldview influencing our country denies any kind of spiritual existence!

Dr. Ed Murphy in his book, “The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare” talks about the clash of worldviews and identifies five conclusions of the Humanistic view of reality:

- The Universe is a cosmic accident that has no ultimate purpose.
- Human life is a biological accident that has no ultimate significance.
- Life ends forever at death for each individual life form.
- Mind has no separate existence or survival apart from the brain.
- Humanity’s intuitive, historic belief in an ultimate mind, spirit, or God behind, within, and outside of the physical universe is a form of self-deception.¹

Dr. Murphy goes on to say, “No wonder life is so empty to intellectually convinced but honest atheists.”¹

However, the Biblical Christian Worldview understands the truth of the reality of evil spirits as revealed in Scripture, God’s Holy Word!

Revelation 12:12 “Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Luke 10:18 “And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

1 Timothy 3:6-7 “He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”

1 Timothy 5:15 “For some have already strayed after Satan.”

❖ **In other words, there is more going on than meets the eye!**

Insights into the demonic activity in the world

- ❖ The demons tormented the man. *Luke 8:27*

📖 *Mark 5:1-5*

Mark 9:17-18,20 “And someone from the crowd answered Him, ‘Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.’ ... And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.”

- ❖ The demons knew who Jesus was. *Luke 8:28*

📖 *Luke 4:33-34*

James 2:19 “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

- ❖ The demons understood the reality of the abyss, the place of eternal confinement for evil spirits. *Luke 8:31*

📖 *Revelation 20:1-3*

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

- ❖ The demons need living things to torment. *Luke 8:32*

📖 *Luke 11:24-26*

- ❖ The demons are absolutely under the authority of Jesus! *Luke 8:32*

Luke 4:41 “And demons also came out of many, crying, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ.”

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”

Insight into the healing and delivering power of Jesus!

- ❖ The man was totally healed!

*“Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, ...” *Luke 8:35**

- ❖ The man wanted to stay with Jesus *Luke 8:38*

- ❖ The man was told, by Jesus, to testify to the power of God to all in his home town!

*“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.” *Luke 8:39**

**Christians, this is our call –
to proclaim everywhere how much Jesus has done for us!
“...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”
*1 John 3:8***

Endnotes:

¹ Murphy, Ed. *The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992. Print.

♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.