

The Demoniacs

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Matthew describes 2 men, Mark and Luke mention one. Is this a contradiction?

Does it surprise you that his neighbors did not seem happy about his healing?

Does the Scripture give any support to those who say that demons were an explanation for mental illness?

Look at a few other examples of demon possession for clues to the cause:

Acts 16:16-22 "Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling...."

Ephesians 4:26,27 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry and do not give the devil a foothold."

John 14:30b Jesus said, "I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me..." Why? Because Jesus had no sin.

Ephesians 2:1,2 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Could demon possession be an extreme case of the condition of all those who are not redeemed?

Could it be said that every conversion is an exorcism?

Acts 26:17b,18a Paul states that Christ told him, "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God...."

Compare the attitude towards spirits in "primitive cultures" with the modern "developed" societies. Since demons exist, how would they operate in each situation?

What sorts of involvement in the occult do we see in our society?

How can a person disbelieve in the supernatural and yet attempt to use "powers"?

Has this sort of thing invaded the church?

How does the "angel of light" disguise work for demons?

Understanding these things, how should our lives be different?

How was the demoniac in this account uniquely qualified for his ministry as an evangelist?

Does God often use our failings for His Kingdom and glory?

How do you think he was received by different people?

Was he likely to be discouraged by rejection?

"Satan and Demons: A Biblical Perspective" http://www.rossolson.org/new_age/satan.pdf