

SICK OF EVIL • Week 1: The Infected Society

Daily Briefing • Day 4 of 5 • The Devil's Opportunity

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:6

Sunday's message was honest that real personal spiritual opposition stands behind human evil. Today we are not sweeping that under the rug. We name it directly, then look at what it actually means for someone who already belongs to Jesus. You can watch or listen to Sunday's sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, modern technological civilization conditions me to look only at the seen realm while ignoring the unseen supernatural world You describe in Your Word. Help me to take Your warning seriously, that evil is real and it seizes opportunities of sin, rebellion, treason, and sedition, even against those who have pledged their life to Christ. Help me find peace in belonging to You and walking in Your ways. Help me take seriously the commitment I made to You and the holiness to which You call me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

We are not going to sweep this under the rug. Sunday's message named a hard reality plainly. There are evil spiritual beings, real personal entities, openly hostile toward God and toward the people who bear His image. That detail matters tremendously in any discussion of evil. Because you carry God's image, you are supposed to physically represent His reign, His rule, and His nature throughout His creation. That makes you a target for God's enemies, not because you matter on your own merit, but because of who you represent.

Scripture does not treat spiritual affliction as make-believe. A harmful spirit tormented Saul after the Spirit of the LORD departed from him (1 Samuel 16:14). Mary Magdalene was delivered from seven of them (Luke 8:2). A slave girl in Philippi was exploited for fortune-telling because she had a spirit of divination, until the apostle Paul cast it out in the name of Jesus (Acts 16:16-18). This is the same Bible you trust for God's guidance for all of life.

But if you have surrendered your life to Jesus, you are not available for that kind of takeover. Your body is "a temple of the Holy Spirit," and you were "bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). A purchase changes ownership. You are not just protected from evil. You are possessed by God, having been bought by Jesus, indwelt by His Holy Spirit, and He does not share tenancy with anything that hates Him.

So what is actually at risk for someone who belongs to Jesus? It's not possession; it's opportunity. Even genuine believers can be demonized, tempted, lured, and afflicted by evil, all while remaining fully possessed by Christ. Peter warns believing Christians that the enemy "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). This is where Sunday's definition of evil comes back around. Evil is defiance, disregard, or distortion of the Designer and His design. Every time you defy, disregard, or distort what God has said, in your thoughts, your desires, your speech, or your actions, you are not losing what already belongs to Him. You are handing a spiritual enemy a place to stand and room to operate inside your life that is no longer yours to give away.

Paul names this directly. "Give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). The word translated "opportunity" means a place to stand, room to operate. James adds the other half of the strategy: submit to God, and then resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7). Submission comes first. The real question was never whether you could be possessed a second time, by something evil. It is whether you, having already pledged allegiance to King Jesus, are still committing quiet, unsundered acts of treason against Him.

READ & MEDITATE

Ephesians 4:27

"And give no opportunity to the devil."

James 4:7

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Read Ephesians 4:27 and notice the word "opportunity." It literally means a place to stand. Then read James 4:7 and notice the order of the two commands: submit first, then resist. Then read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and notice the two reasons Paul gives for why your body is not your own. You are indwelt, and you are bought.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment is far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

The first question was never whether evil is real. It is whether you have ever actually surrendered to the King who already defeated it.

Have you surrendered your life to God, confessed your sins without qualification, called on His name, and pledged allegiance to Jesus Christ through burial in water so that you have officially and blatantly declared to all people in the natural realm and entities in the supernatural realm that you belong to Him and not to yourself?

If you cannot point to that moment, what is keeping you from settling it today instead of assuming it is already true?

Baptism was never a formality God invented to fill time on a Sunday morning. It is the pledge of allegiance He appointed for the King you now serve. It's a declaration that you have defected from the kingdom of darkness (Colossians 1:13–14), that you are killing off and burying your old self with its old desires, values, and allegiances (Romans 6:2–4), and that you will now live your new life as a grateful loyalist to Jesus Christ, the King (Romans 6:6; Galatians 3:27).

Have you been baptized by being buried in water by your own will (not your parents') as that pledge of allegiance to Jesus?

If you have, does your life since then actually look like someone bought with the blood of Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, or has that pledge quietly become nothing more than a time you took a brief dip in front of a bunch of people?

James does not say resist the devil and then submit to God. He says submit first. Submission is not the follow-up move. It is the one that makes resistance actually work.

Have you actually submitted to God, or have you mostly just given lip service while quietly staying on the throne of your own life?

Where specifically is your own judgment, desire, or will still running the show instead of His commands?

You cannot be possessed twice. But you can still commit quiet, unsundered acts of treason against a King you already pledged yourself to serve.

In your actual thoughts, words, and actions this week, are you submitting to Jesus Christ's commandments, or giving evil a place to stand?

Name one specific place, in what you think about, what you say, or what you do, where you have been giving ground instead of holding it. Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite 1 Corinthians 5:6 from memory:
