I Corinthians First Things First XI notes

Luke 4:31-36 -- It is Interesting that not one of those pseudo scholars seemed to know who Jesus was, but the demon sure did!
--The Bible states flatly that the entire world and every person in it under the dominion of Satan, they are enslaved to him and, as such, are his possession **Acts 26:18; I Jn. 5:19**
--They are Satan's possessions, but they are not necessarily demon possessed as we understand it.
--Demon possession is relatively rare occurrence – not hardly seen in the Old Testament, not one mention of possession in the Epistles only in the first 3 gospels (not in John) and the book of Acts.

Demons' goal is to keep people out of the kingdom of God--to keep that which they possess.
--This accomplished primarily through deception: **II Cor. 4:3-4**
--How many *deceived people* have you met as compared to the number of people who *manifested demonic characteristics*?

Look at the creators of false religion throughout the world; most claimed to have received their revelations from some spirit or angel.
--All of them have an uncanny knack for talking just like Satan.
--**Gen. 3:4-5** – He does two things here: one, he says what God has said isn't true "You will not surely die"; two, he calls into question God's character "God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened".

--Remember, we tend to think of demon possession as causing lunatic behavior, but who wants to be that? Who wants to follow that?
--Their goal is to create things/beliefs/systems that people will follow.
--Therefore, we should expect the majority of demon possession to be **literate, articulate, convincing, religious**, with **seemingly sound** and **well thought out arguments**.

Can demon possession happen to believers?
--The short answer is: No!
--**Acts 26:17-18** – To come to Christ is to leave the dominion of Satan and come to the dominion of God. **Col. 1:13**.

One of the most important descriptives of what it means to be a believer is that *you are the possession of God*—bought by Jesus with His precious blood!
--Bought by the Son, for the Father – **Jn. 10:28-30**; **I Jn. 4:4**

This, of course, points out the urgent need of being a believer,
--As scary as demon possession may seem, its nothing compared to leaving this life and entering the next without Jesus, the Son of God, as your Savior. **II Thess. 1:9-11**
--You may think you can live without Jesus, but *you sure don't want to die without Him!*

Understanding demon possession
Matt. 12:43-45 – Think of our physical bodies as a house; the

controlling occupant is one of three options: 1. the spirit of a **human** 2. spirit of a **demon**, 3. The Spirit of **God**.
--Humans have no power to stop the other two, but once God is there no demon wants anywhere close.

Nevertheless, Christians can be demonically influenced
--In fact, *all Christians are demonically influenced* – they are lying to us all the time, trying to influence our thoughts, tempting us at our weakest points.
--The Devil and demons have nothing in us and nothing over us accept influence.
--If we only understood our status on this earth: The demons tremble at the presence of Jesus – who or what brings the presence of Jesus daily into our world.

Let's finish our time this morning by witnessing something rare for demons and demon possession in general.
Lk. 4:31-36
--What isn't rare or unlikely for demons and those they possess is to find them in a religious setting.
--Demons are not atheists, they are fundamentalists! **James 2:19**
--Demons don't have faith in God—they don't need it! They've seen Him ("faith is the evidence of things unseen"), they know Him; they know how it ends; they read the Bible!
--What is unusual is that this man with this demon had probably been to this synagogue many times over many years.
--No one knew he was demon possessed or they wouldn't have let Him in.
--Jesus the Son of God comes to the synagogue and this demon reveals himself, ***unwillingly***.

Things that make the demons come out:
1. Preaching of the Son of God V. 31 – We don't really know what Jesus said at the beginning of His sermon but it probably was similar to how He started His sermon in His hometown the week before: **VV. 18-19**
--From the perspective of a demon, these are terms of war.
--This is how The Strong Man enters the house of the enemy and binds him and raids his belongings.

--The demon surrenders with a scream: **VV. 33-34**.
--He panics because he's exposed: "Let me alone!" actually just two letters in the Greek that translate to something similar to "Ouch!"
--**Something to take home**: the preaching of the truth of Jesus pins the demons to the floor.

Luke 8:28 –The demons here make almost the exact same statement. Effectively, "Why are you attacking us?"
--Mark tells us that this man saw Him from afar off and comes running up to Jesus. Why not hide? Why not run the other way?
--Demons aren't as dumb as we are; where could they go? Where

could they hide?

2. The Purpose of the Son of God – **V. 34**--"Have you come to Destroy us"--The answer is "YES!" **John 3:8** – Jesus came for this Purpose.
--The demon doesn't quite know the chronology but he knows how it ends – they live in complete fear of this.
--Begging him not to send them away to the abyss – Why? That's what He's going to do to them.

3. The Person of the Son of God – **V. 34** "the Holy One of God" **Luke 4:41** "Son of the Most High God" It's almost like they have to say it!
--They **hate** Him, they **oppose** Him, they are out to **destroy** the sinners He loves, yet when before Him they **reverence** Him.

4. The Power of the Son of God – Jesus in both cases commands The demons to come out; *that was not a part of their plan when they got up that day.*
--Notice: there is no binding, no dialogue, no manipulation, no formula, just immediate dominance and the demon could not resist Him.

You may think that your life is so full of sin and such a mess and that there is no real significant hope of healing all that for you.
--But I would dare ask, "you're not cutting yourself up with pottery and breaking iron chains and a living naked in a grave-yard are you?"
--Do you know what happened to this guy? **Mark 5:15**
--Jesus and His disciples crossed that sea and only helped this one person and then they left! He didn't do anything else there, He went only to deliver this one man.
--If Jesus crossed that sea just to deliver that one man, we can know that He cares for us in the same way.
--He crossed over from Heaven to earth to bring healing, hope, and forgiveness, and He's here right now reaching out to every one of us, we must come, our hearts bowed, crying out to Him, admitting our need.