

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E8

Demonology 101: An Introduction To Demons - (Mark 1:21-28)

Description – Jesus’s ministry was highlighted by demons seeking him out. He was a magnet for demonic activity. Join us today as we begin a discussion on the demonic realm.

Today we’re back in Mark 1, looking at the healing in Capernaum.

Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. ²² They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes. ²³ Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, ²⁴ “What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ Jesus rebuked him saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

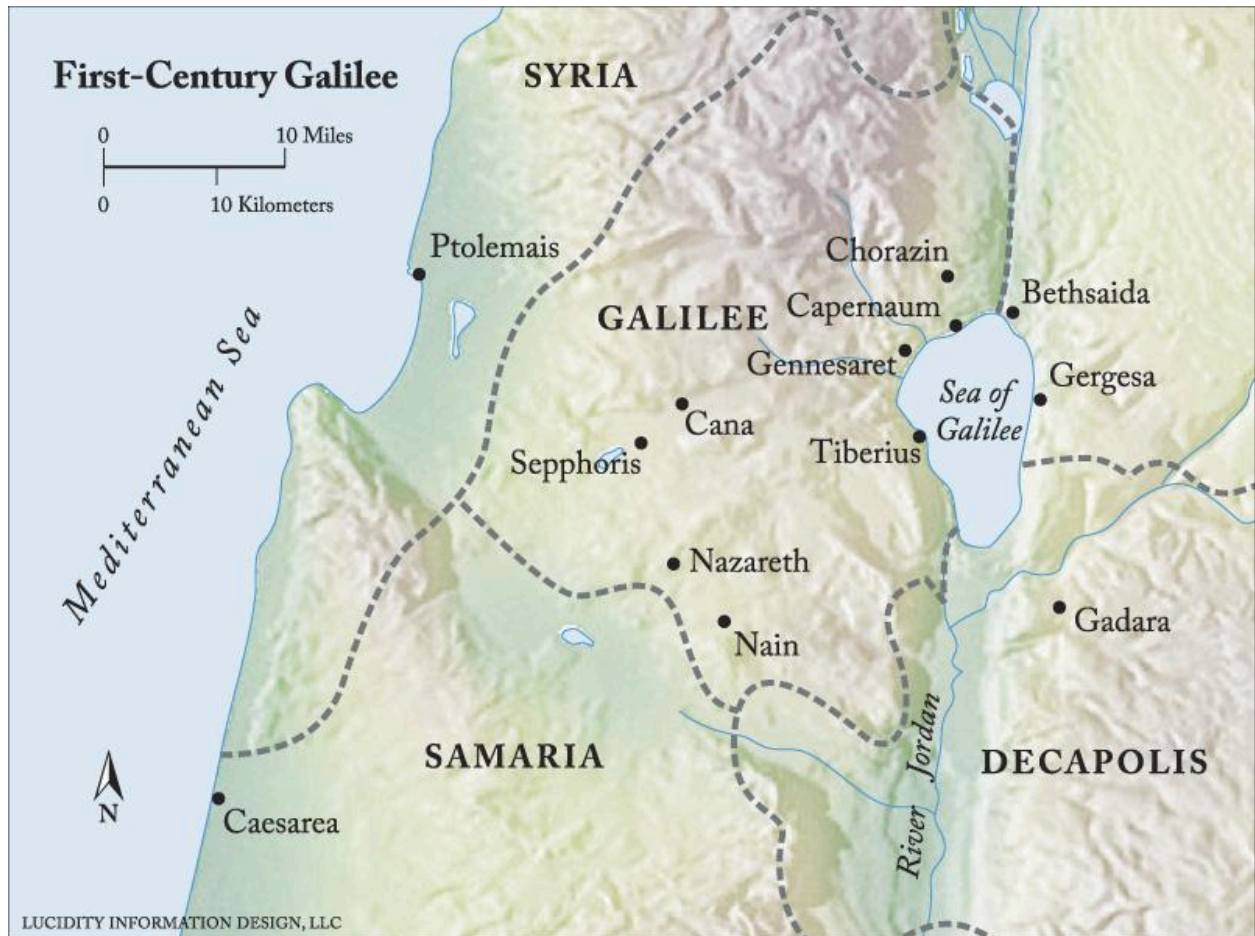
You have to remember, people think that Jesus broke the sabbath, but He never did that. What he’s breaking is the oral law, which was the delineation of the written law.

The oral law said that only in extreme circumstances, the life or death of a person, could you do work on the sabbath. So healings like this in Mark 1 were considered “no-no’s” by the religious elite, the scribes and scholars on the sabbath.

Their traditions had become superior to the scriptures. They had held to the traditions of the teachings instead of the scriptures.

So from this moment, Mark 1 / Luke 4, Jesus moves his ministry base from Nazareth to Capernaum.

Jesus spends most of his time in these 3 cities in the northern galilee region: Capernaum, Bethsaida, and Chorazin.



But notice how the crowd responded to Jesus's teaching:

Mark 1:22

²² They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

Jesus doesn't teach like a typical Rabbi, who would quote their Rabbi teacher, who was quoting some other Rabbi and on back to an even farther Rabbi. He teaches by his own authority. He never has to quote another Rabbi to support his teachings.

He's teaching with authority and anointing, but His ministry is a bullseye for demonic activity.

Mark 1:23-24

²³ Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, ²⁴ "What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Notice in Jesus's ministry, he's never out hunting down demons. They're either coming to him, or the person is being brought by a friend for healing.

The people don't recognize Jesus as the Son of God. The first group to recognize Him for who He is are demons.

A popular view of demons is that they are fallen angels. (1 Peter 2:4). That when Satan rebelled, they were cast out of heaven.

Another view is that they were angels who cohabitated with women, and their offspring were demons.

Another that was popular in the 1st century, that Josephus even wrote about, was disembodied or evil spirits who came out of Hades. God allowed them to come out of Hades to fulfill his divine purposes.

So talking about demons & demonology (the study of demons)

The first win of Satan is if he can convince you that he's not real, and that you're not in a spiritual battle.

The greatest weapon Satan has is the world system, the world and worldliness are on a slope of evil. The default setting is to tend towards evil.

We can all agree, the demonic realm is a real thing, we see it in the Bible. Jesus is a magnet for demonic activity.

1. Demons / Spirits are used interchangeably in the Bible
 - a. Matthew 8:16
2. Demons can move from one place to another.
 - a. Once you're sealed by the Holy Spirit, you can't be possessed by evil spirits / demons.
3. Demons can believe things
 - a. They have a theology
 - b. They have knowledge
 - c. James 2:19 - The demons have an understanding or knowledge of Jesus and of God, but don't have a saving working faith in Christ.
4. Demons are always described as unclean or evil.
 - a. They are not holy.
5. Demons can have a tremendous amount of power / strength
 - a. Mark 5 - the demoniac
6. Demons can suffer physical ailments.

- a. If a person is blind or mute, the demon will be blind / mute while in that person.
7. Demons can leave and then return stronger to the same person.

So there are two types of people at the end of the spectrum. On one far extremes side is a person who doesn't believe in demons or the demonic realm at all. On the other side are those who try to see or find demons behind every rock & tree. Neither of these views is accurate, you want to be somewhere in the middle.