

No Trespassing! – A sermon series on the reality of demonic influence.

1. Background - (Need a stuffed animal pig)
 - a. How many of you would like to have a pet pig living in your house?
 - i. There are some folks who have “pot bellied pigs” living in their homes.
 1. They think that these creatures are lovable and cute as they snort and waddle around the home.
 - ii. Pigs are not especially clean animals, although they can be pretty smart.
 1. They can be trained to use a litter box but they still have their nature of rooting, wallowing and scratching.
 2. These can be disastrous actions if your home isn't “pig proofed.”
 3. I read that they will turn their owner's ankles black and blue from trying to root around them. (I guess they like the smell of feet).
 - iii. Pigs are certainly not clean animals like dogs and cats.
 1. They have terrible habits that are really not geared toward domestication.
 2. The bible declares them as “unclean” animals because they don't have a cloven hoof.
 3. Dt. 14:8 *"The pig, because it divides the hoof but does not chew the cud, it is unclean for you. You shall not eat any of their flesh nor touch their carcasses.*
 - b. What does it mean for something to be unclean?
 - i. For observant Jews, any contact with an unclean animal like a pig would cause you to become unclean yourself.
 - ii. Lev. 7:21 *'When anyone touches anything unclean, whether human uncleanness, or an unclean animal, or any unclean detestable thing, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings which belong to the LORD, that person shall be cut off from his people.'*
 1. It would mean that you could not worship in the communal setting because you would be rendered “ceremonially unclean.”
 2. If you were ceremonially unclean and you participated in the worship of the community anyway, you were to be “cut off” from the people.
 - iii. The Old Testament cleanliness codes were designed to teach the people the differences between holiness and evil
 1. God has a holiness standard that says that He alone is perfectly holy. That means, like no other. He dwells in inapproachable light. He is perfect and has no stain, and no shadow of sin or evil.
 - a. Holiness is contagious.
 - b. If you touched a common object to a holy object, the common object would become holy.
 2. Sin and evil have a similarly contaminating influence.
 - a. However, their influence is always destructive.
 - b. They would render something that was holy as unholy through contact.
 - c. This is a very important principle.
 - d. It is also why sin will not ever be allowed into heaven. It would ruin it!
 - i. Rv 22:15 *Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.*
 - c. The New Testament goes on to tell us that the things of the Old Testament, especially the cleanliness codes were there as “types.”
 - i. A type is something that is like a shadow of a reality.

- ii. When you look at a shadow, you see only a dim image or shape of the reality that casts the shadow.
 - 1. It is kind of foolish to stare at the shadow if what is casting the shadow can be seen.
 - 2. The pig, in this case is a shadow of a reality.
- iii. In the case of things that cause people to become unclean, the shadow of the reality is something that causes us to be contaminated in such a way that we would be unable to worship or approach God as we were designed to.
- iv. Owning a pig or eating pork won't make you unholy and unable to worship on Sunday.
- v. But there are things and actions that contaminate you and I so that we are rendered unable or unwilling to approach God.
 - 1. These are destructive spiritual realities.
 - 2. And it is these spiritual realities that we are going to address this morning.

2. Spiritual Realities: Demons and Spirits

- a. It has been said that the greatest lie that Satan ever has gotten people to believe is that "he doesn't exist."
 - i. 1 Peter 5:8-9 *"Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. 9Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are."*
 - ii. Demon, unclean spirit, etc. used over 75 times in the N. Testament.
 - iii. I know folks who hold a variety of view on the existence of spirits, from the extreme of finding them behind every bush and every activity of life, to the other where they live in total denial of their influence.
 - 1. There are some who try to minimize the fact that Jesus cast out hundreds of demons by saying "all illnesses back in those days were blamed on demons."
 - 2. There are others who say that demons stopped their activity with the end of the Apostolic Age of Miracles.
 - 3. But this passage is to all Christians of all times that we must be aware of the reality of our adversary.
 - iv. This morning, I want to present what I believe is a "balanced" view of this critical issue.
- b. I would like you to imagine one of our soldiers in Iraq taking a stroll outside of the "Green Zone" without his other soldiers, without his rifle and without his body armor?
 - i. Most of us would call that kind of action foolhardy.
 - 1. He would most certainly be captured and tortured by the insurgents!
 - 2. He would be of no use to his commanders any more.
 - 3. In fact, he would probably be a liability as the enemy would display him on the television and internet and make a mockery of him.
 - ii. But, there are those of us who do this every day as we live our lives oblivious to the hostile spiritual realities.
 - 1. In many cases we are captured and tortured by our enemies!
 - 2. It doesn't take much imagination to see how a tortured or captive believer will be ineffective!
 - 3. Ephesians 4:27 tells us, "And *do not give the devil a foothold.*"
 - 4. He is seeking a foothold into the door of a believer's life.
 - iii. Where does he gain that entry? How does he go about it?
 - 1. Very simply, we don't resist him. We leave the door unlocked, we leave the door open to areas of our lives.

2. In other words, we hang a “welcome” sign outside the doors to our lives by the very conduct of our lives.
 - a. An “open door” is any action that is in opposition to God’s word or will for your life.
 - b. An “open door” can also be any belief system that is based upon something other than the word of God or the truth.
 - c. Obvious examples: pornography, adultery, child abuse, incest, violence, witchcraft.
 - d. Less obvious: unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, gossip, strife, horoscopes, etc.

3. What is a Christian to do? How do we lock the doors? How do we get the intruders out of our lives?
 - a. **Our property at my house has a bunch of ‘no trespassing’ signs on it.**
 - i. And we regularly get neighborhood kids and sometimes even their parents walking around on it all times of the year, including during hunting season.
 - ii. Even though the signs are there, if we do not enforce the signs, they are useless.
 - iii. In fact, we have to go down into the field or the woods when we see someone down there and tell them that they are trespassing and that they must leave.

 - b. It is the same with the property of our hearts and with spirits.
 - i. I am sure that there are few of us who would willingly and knowingly let a demon or an unclean spirit to get a grip on our lives.
 - ii. But so often we live passive spiritual lives and before we know it, we have given up “squatters rights” to all sorts of things.
 1. "

4. A question of Possession – What does possess really mean?
 - a. When most of us think of demons and spirits, the mental image we get is that of Carrie or the Exorcist, we think of demonic possession as in one taking up “residence” within a person.
 - i. The Greek word for “demonize” is “daimonizonai” which is a combination of the word for demon (diamono) and (izonai) which means “to act like or imitate.”
 1. While translations commonly say “demon possess” the correct understanding would be to “be oppressed, controlled or influenced” by a demon.
 - ii. But we really need look less at the issue of residence and instead focus upon another issue.
 - iii. **We need to look at the fact that the concept of possession concerns the question of ownership.**

 - b. So what is possessed or owned by the enemy?
 - i. Certainly not our spirits – the place which interfaces with the spiritual world!
 1. When we become a Christian, our spirit is indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
 2. We are “alive” to God because His life dwells within us.
 - ii. Consider, however, our soul.
 1. **The soul is made up of the Mind (thinker), Will (chooser) and Emotions (feeler).**
 2. What goes on here determines how we live our lives.
 3. And the soul is the battlegrounds for the changed life.

 - c. Two approaches to change:
 - i. The world tries to change us from the outside in...
 1. Clean up your body, shine your shoes and you will look good.
 2. But the core of man, his soul, is rotten. It is filled with self-interests.
 - ii. God on the other hand, works from the inside out.
 1. He starts with our Spirit, so we can hear His voice and respond to Him.

2. Then He “*transforms us through the renewing of our minds*” (Ro. 12:2) and teaches us to “*fix our minds on things above*” and to “*set your minds upon the Spirit.*”
 3. It is this winning over our minds, our *thinker* , that allows our actions to begin to reflect what God has changed in our Spirit.
 4. In our Spirit, we reflect His divine nature.
 - a. But because our mind is hostile toward God, our lives, our actions don’t reflect that.
 - b. The new birth is a beginning of the process of change. But it is not the end.
- d. The battle has just begun!
- i. We are fighting a battle concerning the truth about who owns us.
 - ii. The question that is at the core of spiritual warfare is “who do we belong to?”
- e. **Whenever we believe a lie about ourselves or about God, we allow an “ENEMY” to trespass upon our property.**
- i. The author of all lies is Satan.
 - ii. So ultimately, we are being influenced by a trespasser, who is trying to set up shop in our mind.
 1. The longer a lie is believed, the stronger the lie becomes.
 2. It becomes a strong-hold in our lives.
 3. We rarely can break such a stronghold by ourselves.
 - iii. Think of some of the lies that we believe.
 1. I am never going to be successful.
 2. They are out to get me.
 3. No one likes me.
 4. It’s okay to do this...its only a little sin

5. Degrees of Demonic Influence

- a. **Temptation** – an appeal to our sinful desires. We can reject it.
- b. **Influence** – Sin gets a foothold in our lives and it is harder to say no to the influence. **Influence is evidenced through our habits.** We develop HABITS of anger, unforgiveness or lust. To say “no” requires a determined act of our will.
 - i. Eph 4:25-27 “*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*”
 - ii. This verse is telling us that a foothold for the enemy’s influence in our life comes from little things...little sins, like anger, resentment, un-forgiveness, strife, gossip, compromise, etc.
 - iii. We must not allow the trespasser to get onto the property. Stop him at the gates!
- c. **Oppression** – Satan has a degree of control over us. **Oppression is evidenced through acts of compulsiveness.** We wonder why we don’t resist temptation better.
 - i. Just as we looked at Eph 4:25-27, this level sneaks up on us. We have ignored our feelings of resentment and anger or the call to forgive. We cannot stand to be in the same room with another person. We cannot understand why we can’t get “over it.”
 - ii. Or we deal with actions of compulsive moral behavior and cannot seem to say “no”
 - iii. It may be a drink or an image we look at – **we know it is wrong but we can’t seem to say NO!**
- d. **Obsession** – The degree of control is greater. Our habits are sometimes so established that we sometimes cannot even see that they are wrong. **Obsession is often evidenced through denial.** This is because we are deeply deceived.

- e. **Possession** – means we are “puppets” under Satan’s control. This is rare but possible, generally through actions like those who “channel” or give voice to spirits, and is generally because they willingly place themselves into the power of the enemy.
6. The answer to influence? **Deliverance conclusively answers the question of ownership.**
- a. So what happens in the spiritual realm in our soul? If this is the battleground, what is going on there?
 - i. First of all, we need to recognize that the soul BELONGS to Christ once we accept Him.
 - 1. Our mind, will and emotions are His.
 - 2. The enemy no longer owns us.
 - 3. Christ does.
 - 4. He bought and paid for us.
 - 5. We are Christ’s.
 - 6. He hang’s no-trespassing signs all over our lives, telling the devil and his spirits that they have no claim on us.
 - ii. But we still have a problem.
 - 1. First of all, we don’t always realize that the enemy is on our ground.
 - 2. We think that our thoughts are simply the way we have always thought.
 - 3. We don’t recognize that there is a revolution in our thinking taking place.
 - 4. So when we are confronted by something this is in opposition to God or God’s ways, we are dumbfounded, because we don’t recognize the trespasser.
 - iii. It is kind of like after I moved to our home here in Painesville, I had a number of people who came up to the door to TELL ME that they had permission from my dad (who lived there before) to hunt on the property and wanted me to continue the policy of letting them hunt there.
 - 1. There was a problem with this!
 - 2. First of all, my dad is dead. The old owner of the property is dead! All rights given away under his ownership have been terminated.
 - 3. I could have been naïve and just said, “oh, okay, if he said so.”
 - 4. But the property was under new ownership, just as our lives are under new ownership when we become Christians.
 - a. The old owner is dead.
 - b. There is a new owner. His rules are different. He rules by truth.
 - b. The devil and his lying spirits (he is a thief, murderer, and destroyer) want to squat on your life.
 - i. They want to set up shop. And here is how they do it:
 - 1. They propose thoughts and emotions to you that are not based upon truth.
 - 2. They build them upon your experience and your past.
 - a. It may come in the form of a temptation to meet your needs yourself or in a way that isn’t God’s way.
 - b. We find a number of destructive behaviors fall into this arena.
 - c. Alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, even subtle things like trying to control others or criticize others so that you will feel better about yourself are destructive behaviors based upon a lie!
 - 3. Satan makes them sound believable and attractive.
 - 4. And without coercion...he sets up his tents upon our property and before long, a spirit has a stronghold that a bulldozer will have trouble tearing up.
 - 5. I know! I have had a few in my life.
 - 6. If you are honest, you have had or have now, a few in your life as well.
 - c. These spirits bring into question the ownership of your mind and emotions.
 - i. They take up a stronghold of belief and actions (which feed each other and grow stronger)

- ii. Before long, parts of your life look no different than the world around you.
- iii. Maybe it is the way you speak, the movies you watch, the web sites you go to...or maybe it is evidenced in your anger or your fear or the way you treat people. It might be in what you consume or what you do to numb your pain from you past. \
- iv. What lies are you believing that the enemy has whispered in your ears?
 - 1. Before I go on, I would like to pray that God would show you the lies that you are believing and the strongholds that the enemy has built in our lives.

d. *Lord God, You bought us with a price. We are not our own. We have been rescued out of the realm of darkness and have been brought into your marvelous light. But God, we have built our lives on your truth. We have believed lies about ourselves and we have conducted ourselves in ways that are not in line with what is your best for us. As a result, many of us here have allowed our enemy to build up and trespass upon our lives. We have believed his lies instead of your truth. I pray that you would show us the lies we have been believing and the compromises in our lives that are holding us in captivity. (Pause) In Jesus name, amen.*

7. Lets look at a scripture: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* (Eph 6:11-12)

- a. Some versions of the bible interpret this as “battle” or “wage war” or “struggle.” But I think that the Greek illustrates this best.
- b. Greek: PALE - wrestling (a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck)
- c. **Spiritual warfare is a type of warfare that is up-close and personal.**
 - i. It is not hitting our enemy with B-1 Bombers from 40,000 feet, or with a RPG from 100 yards away.
 - ii. It is warfare that is most akin to hand-to-hand combat.
 - iii. Interestingly enough, soldiers learn not only to shoot a weapon but they also learn hand-to-hand combat because sometimes the battle is in very close quarters.
 - iv. This is the only time that this word is used in the entire N.T. – and it is used to describe our struggle with our enemy.
 - v. Wouldn't it be nice on our property to have a big megaphone that we could shout into, “Hey You. You're trespassing. Get out!” But we don't.
 - vi. I have to engage the trespassers in person and up close. Sometimes when they see me coming they leave.
 - 1. But most of the time they won't until I command them to do so.

8. Deliverance – settling the question.

- a. We said earlier that Deliverance answers the question of ownership. We need to pull the deed out to our lives and read it again. We need to declare the truth about ourselves.
 - i. Every Christian must learn that *“you are not your own, you were bought with a price.”* ().
 - ii. *“Former things have passed away, all things have become new.”*
 - iii. God owns you. You belong to Him.
 - iv. Jesus was given all authority over heaven and earth and He delegated that authority to you as well.
- b. Have you been so long defeated that you no longer believe you can be free?
 - i. I read of a man who owned 3 bulls. Every once in awhile one of those bulls would have to prove in battle with the others that he was in charge. Once that had been proved, the defeated ones would give him the right to rule and not challenge his authority.

1. This is what Satan tries to do with you and I.
 2. When he defeats us a few times, he is simply trying to exert his lie that he has the “right to rule.” He wants believes to think that he is stronger than they are and that he is in charge. When we accept psychological defeat we will live defeated lives.
 - ii. Have you given up the battle?
9. Have you ever engaged in “self-talk?”
- a. That is where you say to yourself...”I can’t believe I did that. I am so dumb.” Or we put it into the third person and say, “You are so dumb.”
 - b. This kind of self-talk is precisely what our enemy likes. It reinforces the lies he has told us. It keeps us in bondage to him.
 - c. What we need is the kind of talk that speaks against the lies. We don’t speak to ourselves. We speak to the enemy. (build on the promises!)
10. You have the authority in the name of Jesus.
- a. Speak to the spirit and speak to the lie.
 - i. Don’t pray to God that He remove it from you. It is authority given to you.
 - ii. When Moses was getting ready to cross the Red Sea, he is speaking to the Israelites and telling them that God will deliver them. But God interrupts and says something...”why are you talking to me? Raise your staff and part the sea!”
 - iii. In other words, you have the authority, use it!
 - b. Speak in faith to the lie and command it to leave.
 - i. It may take some time.
 - ii. It may require doing it over and over, because the lie may be entrenched. But the lie is a lie and it must be refuted.
 - iii. It has no authority to live in your mind or will or emotions. It must leave
11. Jennifer and I will be available during our ministry time to pray with you, separately or together, which ever you need. As your pastor, I want to see you be set free. I want you to experience the freedom in Christ that God wants for you. Please don’t think your problem will go away.
- a. Step out of your pew and step forward and let us pray for you today. Begin your freedom today!
 - b. Answer the question of ownership in your life.
 - c. I spent years of listening to pastors preach these things and refused to make a change. I was afraid of what others would think, I was unwilling to admit my struggles, or I thought it would just go away. All of those were lies. They were lies designed to keep me from expelling the trespassers from my life! Don’t wait. Don’t be miserable another day. Begin your deliverance today.