***Lesson: God Heals Demon Possessed***

***August 4, 2019***

**From Mike:**

I have to say that I’ve seen a few people in my life that might qualify as being demon possessed. Most of those times were when I was a Police Chaplain and not when I was at a church fellowship. Truth be told, the people weren’t as possessed by demons as they were a case of beer or a shot of some recently purchased street drug. But I remember a few who seemed to be enveloped by evil in everything they did and said. They were possessed alright, but possessed by their own choices and self-centeredness. A few times I witnessed people who were just so mean and uncaring that it made me wonder if some demon wasn’t in control of them. In a couple of cases, I was called out or present when someone was so mentally unbalanced that no one could talk to them or get them to cooperate at all. Late one night, some of my officers called me to respond to a scene because they thought I could help, but when I got there, I discovered that it was a mentally disturbed person they were trying to get to a hospital but they were violently resisting. Usually there was a Crisis Response Team they could call on who were trained psychologists and counselors, but they were busy.

 I still remember the officers meeting with me and asking me if I could pretend to be a Catholic priest because that was what the person was screaming for. I actually considered it for a few seconds before I realized that I couldn’t blatantly lie and pretend to be someone I wasn’t. It didn’t help that I had visions of The Exorcist which had already been out a dozen years by then. A couple guys didn’t like my decision, but others respected it.

 The problem then was mental illness not demon possession, but if I had compromised my convictions, I might have been the one who was letting Satan be in control.

 No, I don’t believe in demon possession today, but I do believe we can become possessed/controlled by sin. It’s our choice though!

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