

Last Week's Sermon Summary

"Casting Out Unclean Spirits"

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Isaiah 35:3~8, Luke 4:31~41

❶ **[The work of evil spirits]** Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath in the city of Capharnaum and taught. At that time, there was a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an unclean evil spirit, and he cried out loud. "Oh, Jesus of Nazareth, don't worry, you have come to destroy us. I know who it is. He is a saint of God." (v. 34) Paul writes clearly about the work of demons. "The God of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, and has made blind them to the light of the gospel concerning the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (II Corinthians 4:4). Evil spirits blind people's minds and make them unable to believe in Christ. The devil tries to separate man from God or teach the wrong God or the wrong Messiah.

❷ **[Human resistance]** Some people may be surprised that there was a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an unclean evil spirit. However, the people who tried to kill Jesus the most were religious people such as scribes and priests. It is possible that those who are closest to God become the tools of evil spirits, used by evil spirits. If the real thing comes, the fake will be exposed. When the master returns, the servant must step down from his seat. When Jesus began to speak, it must have been clear to him that he was a fake. Yet the chief priests and scholars did not recognize the evil and deceit that lurked within them, and they did not seek to step down from their positions

of power. It is the work of evil spirits that have made us cling to lies (idols) and power. However, this man resisted aloud because the light of Jesus had illuminated his heart and exposed his false self. I knew I couldn't beat him, so I said, "Don't worry." Better than the chief priests. This man said, "I know who he is, and he is a saint of God." I said. Demons know Jesus better than humans. But he also says, "Have you come to destroy us?" Jesus is not the kind of person who destroys people. It is the devil's way to confuse truth and lies. That is why we should not listen to the confessions of evil spirits. That's why Jesus commands, "Shut up."

❸ **[Purpose of casting out demons]** The Bible says, "If I am casting out demons with the Spirit of God (with the finger of God in Luke), then the kingdom of God has come to you" (Matthew 12:28), and "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:3). Without the Holy Spirit, demons cannot go out, and we cannot believe in Jesus. Christ casts out demons with His fingers (with God's own fingers) in order to build the kingdom of God in him, to make the Holy Spirit dwell in his heart, and to make him believe in Jesus. But even if the demons are cast out, not everyone will believe in Jesus. Even if you quit a cult of 100 people, only about 10 people will become Christians. There are many vacant houses. Then even worse spirits will enter. It's a pity. In order for the Holy Spirit to dwell, we need our will. The human body is essentially the abode of God. It is not the abode of evil spirits. The words of Jesus have the power to cast out demons and bring a person back to sanity. A disciple of Jesus is one who has ↗

Weekly Report

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Miyakojima Church

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《Zacchaeus Climbed the Fig Mulberry》

Miyakojima Church's 2024 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : "No one can lay any other foundation, ignoring the foundation that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.
- 4 Cultivate the consciousness of building a church together.