



Dark Shadows

Does Evil Really Exist?

Mark 5:1-20; Eph 6:12; Heb 12:2; 2 Pet 3:1-15a

OPEN

When you think of *Evil*, what images, pictures, or phrases come to mind?

INTRODUCTION

What are your thoughts to the following quote by C.S. Lewis from *The Screwtape Letters*?

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. [The devils] themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician"-- a secularist or a fanatic -- "with the same delight."

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

Read Mark 5:1-20

- In the sermon, there were four signs (or tactics) of Evil that plagued this man's life. How do you see evidence of each of these in this story?
 - Without Love
 - Without Peace
 - Without Joy
 - Without Hope
- Think about your own life and what you observe in the world. What are the signs that Evil is trying to creep its way into your life (or in the life of others)?

Do you believe there is Evil at work trying to disrupt and even destroy the goodness of God in this world? Why or why not?

How do you internalize Eph 6:12 and 1 Pet 5:8?

How does Hebrews 12:1-2 explain how to resist Evil?

Read 2 Pet 3:1-15a. What encouragement do you find from this passage? What does it say about the future of Evil? How should we respond as a result of this good news?

NEXT STEPS:

- How are you challenged to respond to what you have learned this week?
- What areas of your life do you need to *fix your eyes upon Jesus*?
- Read and reflect on the questions and Bible Passages for this week.

ⁱ C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, Preface (1941), p.3.