

## What If ...

### *Jesus Meant What He Said About the Demonic*

*The popularity of “the devil” in our culture rises and wanes with marketing and Hollywood. Currently, the Netflix show Lucifer paints the devil as a worldly, self-absorbed, and yet somehow charming police consultant. Back in the day, Hormel turned the shadowy figure into a red-tailed caricature for their Deviled Ham. And the comedian Flip Wilson assured us that “The devil made me do it.” Of course, there’s the other side of the devil in movies like The Exorcism of Emily Rose and Legend where Satan is pretty scary and a lot creepy. But a real devil? That seems just so ... childish. Unless, of course, it isn’t. What If ... Jesus really meant what he said about the demonic?*

Matthew 10:5–8

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ about the demonic, but he clearly believed the demonic \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For believers, the demonic is more an \_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Demonic influence is mitigated by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. For unbelievers, the demonic is playing havoc with them ... it interferes with their \_\_\_\_\_ and they have no effective \_\_\_\_\_ against it.
5. Jesus expects his disciples to do something about the demonic ...  
(1) To \_\_\_\_\_ themselves; and (2) To \_\_\_\_\_ of their dilemma.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitment***

- I will “Armor Up” with regular spiritual disciplines
- I will explore my role with Celebrate Recovery

# Digging Deeper

## *What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said About the Demonic?*

**This Week:** There is a story about Smith Wigglesworth, a British evangelist, who had gone to bed exhausted after a particularly long evangelistic meeting. He was suddenly awoken by his bed shaking and when he opened his eyes, Satan – or one of his minions – was at the foot of his bed. Smith glared at the figure, mumbled, “Oh, it’s only you,” and then rolled over to go back to sleep.

Below are the primary words and examples of how Jesus approached the demonic. From what you’ll read, you’ll see that not only was Jesus not afraid of Satan and his minions, he viewed them more as an annoyance. There’s something there for all of us to learn.

1. Jesus believed that Satan and his minions were real (Read Mark 1:12–13)
2. He presumed they sometimes caused illness or other physical manifestations (Matthew 12:22; Luke 13:10–16)
3. He believed some were “stronger” than others (Mark 5:1–10, Mark 9:14–29)
4. He understood they were regularly the author of temptations, tests, and trials ... they try to influence you) (Luke 4:1–13; Luke 22:31)
5. He believed they could “possess” people, or make their homes in them in some way (Matthew 12:43–45)
6. He believed that their reign was temporary and that they would be cast into hell at some point in the future (Matthew 25:41)
7. He believed prayer and the intervention of God could mitigate demonic influence (Luke 22:31–32; Matthew 17:21)

### ***Additional Important Passages:***

- Our behavior can invite demonic influences (Ephesians 4:27)
- The demonic is actively trying to tempt, trap, and discredit us (1 Peter 5:8)
- The demonic clouds the minds of unbelievers, making it difficult to understand the spiritual and to believe (1 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:4)
- The church’s primary adversary is the demonic, not people (Ephesians 6:12)
- The appropriate response to the demonic is to “put on the armor of God,” that is, practice spiritual disciplines (Ephesians 6:10–20)

**Next Week:** What If ... Jesus really meant what he said about the Second Coming?