

A Struggle with Evil

R. A. Torrey Story

(Discipleship Lesson 22)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

One time a young man in awful spiritual darkness was sent to me. When he was brought to my office, he said, "I am possessed of the devil."

"I think quite likely you are."

"You do not understand me," he said, "I mean that the devil has entered into me as he did into Judas Iscariot."

"That may be," I answered, "but Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. Now He says in John 6:37. 'Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.' If you will come to Him, He will receive you and set you free from Satan's power."

The conversation went on in this way for some time: he constantly asserting the absolute hopelessness of his case.

One day I met him and made up my mind that the time had come to have the battle out. I told him to sit down, and I sat down beside him.

"Do you believe the Bible?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied. "Do you believe John 6:37 ('All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out')?" I asked.

"Yes." "Do you believe that Jesus Christ told the truth when He said, 'Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out'?"

"Yes, I do."

"Well, then, will you come?"

"I have committed the unpardonable sin."

I replied, "Jesus does not say, 'him that hath not committed the unpardonable sin that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.'"

"But I have sinned willfully after I have received the knowledge of the truth."

"Jesus does not say, 'him that has not sinned willfully after he received the knowledge of the truth that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

"But I am possessed of the devil," he answered.

"Jesus does not say, 'him that is not possessed of the devil that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

"But my heart is hard as a millstone."

"Jesus does not say, 'If a man's heart is soft and tender, and he come to Me, I will in no wise cast him out.'" He says, "'him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.'"

"Well, I don't know that I care to come."

"Jesus does not say, 'him that careth to come to Me, and comes to Me, I will in no wise cast out.' He says, 'him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

The man's excuses were exhausted. I looked him square in the face and said, "Now, will you come? Get down on your knees, and quit your nonsense."

He knelt and I knelt by his side. "Now," I said, "Follow me in prayer. Lord Jesus," I said, and he repeated, "Lord Jesus. My heart is as hard as a millstone. I have no desire to come unto thee. But thou hast said in thy Word. Him that cometh to Me I will no wise cast out. Now the best I know how I come."

“Now,” I said, “go to your room: stand firmly upon this promise of Jesus Christ. “

He went to his room. The devil did give him an awful conflict, but he stood firmly on John 6:37, and came out of his room triumphant and radiant. Years have passed since then. Though the devil has tried again and again to plunge him into despair, he has stood firmly on John 6:37, and he is today being used of God to do larger work for Christ than almost any man I know.

Will you come my friend? Jesus will never cast you out.

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. *“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.”* Conflict with the forces of evil is described as: (underline one)
 - a. A tennis match
 - b. A wrestling match
 - c. A boxing match

2. Read Mark 16:17. *“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.”* A Christian has authority against demons to: (underline one)
 - a. Cast them out
 - b. Pray to God
 - c. Hope something happens

3. Read Acts 10:38. *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”* Jesus Christ spent one-fourth of His earthly ministry healing the sick and casting out demons. Jesus went about healing all that were _____.

4. Read 1 John 3:8. *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* The Son of God was manifested that He might _____.

5. Read James 4:7. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* What two things does this verse tell us we must do?
_____ and _____.

6. Read James 4:8. *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."* If you draw near to God, what will He do? _____.
7. Read James 1:14. *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."* We enter temptation when we are drawn away by _____.
8. Read John 6:37. *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* Those that come to Jesus He will _____.
9. Read Acts 8:22. *"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."* If you find your heart not right, what two things should you do? (underline one)
 - a. Go to church and give in the offering plate.
 - b. Read the Bible and give a helping hand to someone.
 - c. Repent (turn from your sin) and ask God for forgiveness
10. If you are resisting a demon you should: (underline one)
 - a. Read Ephesians 3:19. *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."* Crowd them out by filling yourself with Jesus.
 - b. Read Romans 6:12-13. *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. [13] Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."* Starve them out by cutting off the sin that has allowed them access.
 - c. Read Mark 16:17. *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues."* Cast them out.
 - d. Do all of the above.

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Check your answers with the following answers.

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. Conflict with the forces of evil is described as: (underline one)
 - a. A tennis match
 - b. A wrestling match**
 - c. A boxing match

2. Read Mark 16:17. A Christian has authority against demons to: (underline one)
 - a. **Cast them out**
 - b. Pray to God
 - c. Hope something happens
3. Read Acts 10:38. Jesus Christ spent one-fourth of His earthly ministry healing the sick and casting out demons. Jesus went about healing all that were **Oppressed of the devil.**
4. Read 1 John 3:8. The Son of God was manifested that He might **Destroy the works of the devil.**
5. Read James 4:7. What two things does this verse tell us we must do?
Submit to God and resist the devil.
6. Read James 4:8. If you draw near to God, what will He do? **He will draw near to you.**
7. Read James 1:14. We enter temptation when we are drawn away by **Our own lust and enticed.**
8. Read John 6:37. Those that come to Jesus He will **In no wise cast them out (never turn away).**
9. Read Acts 8:22. If you find your heart not right, what two things should you do? (underline one)
 - a. Go to church and give in the offering plate.
 - b. Read the Bible and give a helping hand to someone.
 - c. **Repent (turn from your sin) and ask God for forgiveness**
10. If you are resisting a demon you should: (underline one)
 - a. Read Ephesians 3:19. Crowd them out by filling yourself with Jesus.
 - b. Read Romans 6:12-13. Starve them out by cutting off the sin that has allowed them access.
 - c. Read Mark 16:17. Cast them out.
 - d. **Do all of the above**

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