

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 *The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)*

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In the OT there were the prophecies of a coming Messiah. Messiah is the Hebrew corresponding to Christ in the NT which simply means “anointed one”. In the OT when God chose a special person for a special work – such as a king, they would be “anointed” with oil indicating they were the special chosen one.

But the prophecies indicated a most special CHOSEN ONE was to come. He would be a KING and He would be a DELIVERER of God’s people. If the prophecies were read carefully this Messiah would be a most unique person. He would be both human and at the same time God in one person.

Slide # 2

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

6 For unto us a Child is born, [**HUMANITY**] Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, [**DEITY**] Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew wrote to the Jews to show them that Jesus was the promised Christ. After the introduction of Christ's Messianic genealogy, John the Baptist then came on the scene preparing the way for the Lord by calling the people to repentance saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt. 3:2) This was followed by Christ coming on the scene with the very same message saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt. 4:17) The kingdom was being presented by the Messianic King on the condition of repentance.

Those truly repentant are ultimately those who go into the kingdom and the fruits of true repentance are described in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 which has been called "***The Greatest Sermon Ever Given***".

This is then followed up by the chapter on AUTHORITY as found in Matthew 8.

Matthew 8 provides further evidence in Christ's earthly ministry showing that He indeed is the promised Messiah King. He is presented as having Lordship AUTHORITY indicative of the divine-human Messiah.

He cleanses a leper with a touch; He heals the centurion's servant from a distance with just a word; He heals Peter's mother-in-law; and He demands first-place allegiance from would be disciples.

Matthew 8:23, where we begin our study today, picks up the interrupted narrative started back in verse 18.

Slide # 3

Matthew 8:18 (NKJV)

18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, **He gave a command to depart to the other side.**

Keep this in mind – Christ has commanded that they go to the other side – not the bottom of the lake.

Slide # 4



Matthew 8:23–34 (NKJV)

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

The parallel texts dealing with this event are found in Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25. Mark 4:35 indicates it was now evening following an extremely busy day of teaching and ministering to the crowds.

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

Sudden storms that come with little or no warning are not uncommon on the Sea of Galilee. At 680 feet below sea level it is the lowest freshwater lake on earth. It is 13 miles long, 7 miles wide and about 150 feet deep.

The Sea of Galilee is rimmed about by hills and valleys. Mount Hermon to the north rises up to 9,200 feet and when sudden northerly winds blow down through valley with great force meeting with warmer air over the Galilean basin the result is high winds causing violent waves of 20 feet and whitecaps.

The word translated here as “tempest” is the Greek word “**seismos**” from which we get our English word seismic. This word usually denotes a violent shaking “**earthquake**” but here it denotes a ferocious storm connoting the tremendous turbulence of the water. Note it says this was “**a great tempest**”.

Verse 24 says that “the boat was covered with the waves.” Now that is scary when 20-foot waves are coming over the boat.

I don't care how seasoned a fisherman you are that is terrifying when you are out on a lake that is 150 feet deep. Mark 4:37 and Luke 8:23 says, the boat was filling with water and in jeopardy.

And where was Jesus but fast asleep! It had been an exhausting day and He was tired. Here we see the humanity of Jesus.

Slide # 5



But there is a context to Jesus sleeping. This was no normal nap. Jesus was asleep in the midst of a horrendous life-threatening storm.

Slide # 6



25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

Give the disciples a little credit – they knew who to go to. They weren't looking to Peter. They didn't say to Peter, “**You are a fisherman, you are experienced with this lake, please do something.**” No, they knew this was way beyond Peter and so they went to Jesus.

Matthew and Luke are more gracious simply saying they awoke Jesus saying, “we are perishing”. However, Mark 4:38 says the disciples said to Jesus, “**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**” Do you not care? Now that had to hurt! If anyone ever cared, it is Jesus!

But don't we also often respond that way in a life-crisis in effect saying, "Lord don't you care what is happening to me?" This is a good lesson right here. Of course He cares and He is sovereign. He is in control.

The prayer here was good, "Lord save us!" He is in the saving business! He is mighty to save!

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Jesus rebuked their fear saying, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Now note, He didn't say that they had NO faith – just "little faith". They did after all come to Jesus saying, "**Lord, save us!**" That showed a little faith.

This phrase a "**little faith**" (Gk. oligopistos) is found 5 times in the NT – always in reference to the disciples (cf. Matt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; and Luke 12:28 – also cf. Mt. 17:20). Lack of faith among those who have faith is sorely disappointing. It speaks of faith that is ineffective, deficient, or defective. The goal is to have "**great faith**" not "**little faith**".

Their being so afraid showed little faith in Christ's Lordship authority. After all, He had commanded that they go to the other side! Fear is here contrasted with faith. Fear in this sense is a contradiction of faith. Faith triumphs over fear or fear triumphs over faith! What is going to govern – is it going to be fear or faith? That is the question.

Faith in the Bible is always based on God's Word. Faith takes God at His Word and rests in it.

Slide # 7

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

These disciples had heard Jesus command to go to the other side. They had heard the Word. But in the midst of the sudden crisis they lost sight of it. That is so easy to do!

Note the contrast between this and the **GREAT faith** of the centurion earlier in the chapter where He believed in the Word of Jesus - saying if Jesus just said the word his servant would be healed (Mt. 8:8).

Jesus called that “**great faith**”. That is in contrast to this “**little faith**” that in the same breath called on Jesus as Lord to save them while at the same time saying, “**We are perishing!**” Which is it? Is He Lord who can bring us to the other side as He said, or are we going to perish? (cf. Mk. 4:35). Then to prove that indeed He is LORD the text says, “**Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.**” Now that is a call to WORSHIP! That is awesome! That is LORDSHIP on display!

No one except God Almighty can do this! The apostles were empowered by God to do various miracles, but this category of miracle over NATURE was reserved for Jesus ALONE. Jesus alone did miracles over nature. And that is significant – for this is the realm uniquely belonging to God. Only God ultimately controls the weather. This is the uniform testimony of Scripture.

Slide # 8

Psalm 107:23–29 (NKJV)

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters,

24 They see the works of the **LORD**, And **His wonders** in the deep.

25 For **He** commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

26 They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits’ end.

28 Then they cry out to the **LORD** in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

29 **He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.**

Who does this according to Psalm 107? The LORD – that is YHWH! This is the most sacred Name for God in the Bible. The one true sovereign God of Israel – the covenant God of Israel – He is the one Who “calms the storm” and stills the waves (cf. 2 Sam. 22:16; Job. 38:8-11; Ps. 18:15; 29:3-4, 10-11; 65:5-7; 89:9). JESUS DID THAT! No one else ever did that! This is a God-thing!

You need to realize that when a ferocious storm like this hits the Sea of Galilee it can take anywhere from 24-48 hours for the Sea to quiet completely down. So when Jesus rebuked the winds and sea and instantly there was not just “calm” but “a great calm” that is mind blowing.

Suddenly the winds came to a screeching halt and there was perfect calm. Suddenly the waters instantly became like glassy still. That never happens. The winds gradually subside. The sea slowly calms down. It happens after a long period of time. But not this time. At the command of Jesus there instantly was “a great calm”.

Now that will get your attention like none other! Matthew 8:26 says the disciples were fearful in the storm crying out “We are perishing” (v. 25). But when Jesus calmed the storm Mark 4:41 said that then, “they feared exceedingly”.

Do you know what is more terrifying than the life-threatening storm outside your boat - it is coming to the realization that the SOVEREIGN POWER Who controls the storm is in your boat? Now that is terrifying! Just being in the intimate presence of one with ALL POWER made them fear exceedingly!

Note the language here....

Slide # 9

v. 24 ...a GREAT tempest...

v. 26 ...a GREAT calm.

No matter how GREAT the storm Jesus is greater. Faith recognizes Jesus' AUTHORITY over all other forces. He is greater than all.

All disciples encounter storms sooner or later. At times it seems we are going to be swamped by the waves. What a comfort to know that Jesus is in the boat with us. – **William MacDonald**

27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Marveled (Gk. *thaumazo*) expressed extreme amazement or wonderment. And no wonder, because no ordinary man could do such a thing. They were in awe at Christ's power to control even the wind and the sea. And they touch on the ultimate issue of WHO can this be? Who has this kind of authority and power? The answer of course is only the Almighty God!

Jesus is both the human being in need of rest and the Sovereign Creator who can calm a storm. – **David Jeremiah**

Years ago I was getting ready to teach through the parallel passage in Mark 4. As I was preparing for the sermon, I had a cultist call me who didn't believe Jesus is eternal God. He had called me before. He would do this on his lunch break. He came off like this brilliant guy who knew Greek and the Bible backwards and forwards. He just cut into me for my belief that Jesus is the Almighty eternal God.

So, I asked him, "Who controls the weather?" Suddenly this brilliant scholar could not answer (or rather would not answer) the question! I pressed Him, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" He absolutely refused to answer and in his quick talking way just wanted to go another direction. But he has not called back since!

Who can control the weather? God alone! God alone controls the forces of nature. Jesus unique miracles over nature show definitively that He is God Almighty come in the flesh – He is indeed the prophesied divine/human Messiah.

28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

All three synoptic gospels (Matt, Mark, and Luke) record this event (cf. Matt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39). Here in verse 28 some manuscripts read "Gergesenes" and some read "Gadarenes".

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Early manuscripts of Matthew describe this event as occurring in the region of Gadarenes. In contrast, early manuscripts of Mark and Luke describe it as occurring in the region of Gerasenes (Mk 5:1; Lk 8:26). Gadara and Gerasa were located in the same province. The different readings mean very little in this light, and they likely arose due to transcription errors rather than disagreement between the original texts of the Gospels. – **HCSB**

Slide # 11

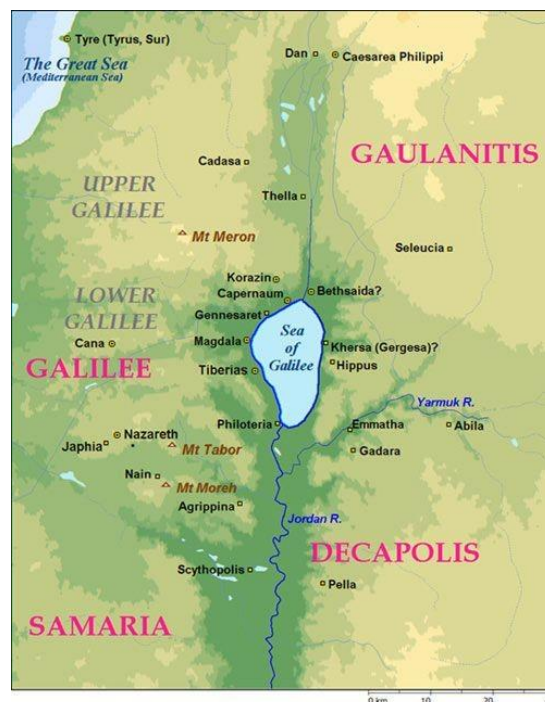
Variants are not problems with inspiration but with copyists and should not be considered a major issue here. Since there is both a Gergesa (eastern shore) and Gadara (a city on the southeast and the territory around it), either Gaderene and Gerasene could be an appropriate term. – **Ed Glasscock**

In other words there is overlap here between these two designations. Gadara was a key city in this area. D.A. Carson says, “The locale seems to have been in the district controlled by the town of Gadara near the village of Gerasa...”. This area fits all the geographical implications in the corresponding texts.

The topography there fits Matthew’s description, with fertile but steep slopes that plummet into the sea. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***.

This area was called Decapolis because there were 10 Gentile cities in this territory.

Slide # 12



Galilean Ministry of Jesus

As Jesus came into this territory, He was met by two demon possessed men. They lived in the tombs there and were so fierce that no one could pass that way. But here comes Jesus and things were about to change.

Understand that in the Bible there are two spiritual forces of power. One is of God and the other is of Satan. Demons are fallen angels who follow Satan. They are spirit beings. God ALONE ultimately has power over these forces of darkness. In Matt. 12 Jesus shows that only God has power over demons and His ability to cast them out shows that He is God (see Mt. 12:28-29).

Matthew reports that two demoniacs were involved here while Mark and Luke record only one. But that is no problem. They don't say there was ONLY one. It seems that Mark and Luke emphasize the more prominent one, but actually there were two in view as brought out by Matthew.

Demon possession is real and it is scary. Demon possession means that these evil spirits actually live in a person and control them.

Demoniacs in the NT are pictured neither as gross sinners nor as victims of insanity (though demonism may produce such effects), but as persons whose minds have come under the control of an evil spirit or spirits. – *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*

Sometimes it is exhibited in supernatural strength. Luke records that the demon possessed man wore no clothes and that when kept under guard broke the chains and was “driven by the demon into the wilderness” (cf. Lk. 8:29).

Slide # 13

Mark 5:3–4 (NKJV)

3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and **no one could bind him, not even with chains,**

4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the **chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken** in pieces; **neither could anyone tame him.**

Naked, out of control, untamable. What a pitiful situation. Demons, like Satan have a malicious spirit that desires to harm people. Christ's kingdom miracles were always good and beneficial in contrast to Satan's work which is always destructive and harmful. Thus, it should have been obvious to all that the power of God was working through Jesus!

Slide # 14

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has **anointed** Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To **proclaim liberty to the captives,** And the **opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

Jesus the Messiah came to set Satan's captives free! He being the God-Man had the power to do it!

29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

No one dared pass that way for fear of these demon possessed men, but when Jesus came it was the demons who cried out in fear! Such is the power of Jesus!

Note the disciples in the storm failed to properly recognize Jesus, but these demons knew full well Who Jesus was as the “Son of God” and they recognized His sovereign authority over them.

“What have we to do with You” is literally “what to us and to You”. It reflects a Hebrew idiom that always indicates hostility indicating we have nothing to do with each other (cf. 2 Sam. 16:10; 1 Kg. 17:18; 2 Kg. 3:13).

Note they recognize Jesus for Who He truly is as the “Son of God”. Son of God means that Jesus shares the very nature of God and that He truly is God of very God. Son of God does not mean Jesus is in anyway lesser than God but rather shares the very nature of God. When Jesus called God His Father in John 5 the Jews properly understood that He was “making Himself equal with God” (Jn. 5:18). “Son of God” is clearly a Messianic term as seen in Ps. 2:7 and 12.

It is interesting to note that Satan and the demons called Jesus **“Son of God”** but they never called Him **“Son of man”**. Jesus in His veiled state of humility emphasized His human role calling Himself **“the Son of Man”** but the demons know full well Jesus is God and therefore invariably called Him **“Son of God”** in recognition of His divine authority!

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Son of God (Jesus is God)

JESUS IS THE GOD-MAN! (Fully God and fully man in one person)

Son of Man (Jesus is Man)

These demons clearly recognized Jesus’ absolute AUTHORITY over them asking, **“Have you come here to torment us before the time?”** They have no doubt it is coming, the only question they had is about the timing. Jesus said that hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.

Slide # 16**Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)**

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the **everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Realize that at the time of the flood certain especially bad demons were bound in a special holding place called in the Greek Tartarus where they are awaiting final judgment. Perhaps these demons were wondering if this too was to become their fate as well.

Slide # 17**2 Peter 2:4 (HCSB)**

4 For if God didn’t spare the **angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus** and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness **until judgment;**

We see here that demons recognize the Deity of Christ; they know judgment day is coming and that this is their fate; and that they cannot act apart from permission of the sovereign authority – Who is Christ. Demons have good theology – the problem is that their allegiance is to Satan and rebellion.

Slide # 18**James 2:19 (NKJV)**

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

It is not enough to merely have good theology. It is not enough to simply believe intellectually. The issue is the HEART. Even the demons believe intellectually, and they tremble emotionally, but their heart allegiance is not with Jesus. They follow Satan and not Jesus. The issue is the HEART! The Bible says “with the heart one believes unto righteousness” (Rom. 10:9).

30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.

The fact there was a great herd of swine here is further evidence that this was essentially Gentile territory. Mark 5:13 puts the number at about 2000.

The Mosaic Law forbade the Jews to either eat or touch swine (cf. Lev. 11:7-8; 27). Only in Gentile territory such as Decapolis would you find large herds of swine.

31 So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

The large herd of swine suggests that the number of demons was large. In Mark 5:9 the responding demon said, “***My name is Legion; for we are many.***” In the Roman army a “Legion” denoted 6000 soldiers. It is thought that “Legion” generally came to denote a very large number – numbering in the thousands. It is amazing how many demons can possess a person.

Note Christ’s authority here. The demons realizing Christ is about to cast them out of the men request permission to enter into the herd of swine. They realized they could only operate according to Christ’s permission. Again, the issue is one of power and authority!

Slide # 19

Luke 8:31 (NKJV)

31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Again, this evidently refers to the underworld prison currently occupied by especially wicked demons as they await final judgment.

Slide # 20

Jude 6 (NKJV)

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, **He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**

Jesus had the power and authority to cast them into this holding pit. He had done it before and they knew it.

It would appear that demons desire to inhabit a body of some kind – especially humans. Evidently they find some sort of morbid satisfaction in residing in a body.

Slide # 21**Luke 11:24 (NKJV)**

24 “When an unclean spirit **goes out of a man**, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘**I will return to my house** from which I came.’

However, in this case if the possession of a human body was no longer allowed they begged for permission to possess these pigs.

Footnote: The word for “***demons***” here is translated as “***gods***” in Acts 17:18. In Jude 8 and 2 Pet. 2:10 they are referenced as “***dignitaries***”. Thus, they are recognized as powerful supernatural beings. Yet, Christ is over them showing superior power and authority.

Slide # 22**Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)**

16 For by Him [Christ] **all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or **principalities or powers**. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Christ is the Creator of all and sovereignty over all – including all the forces of evil – including all evil spirits.

32 And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Christ granted permission and when they came out of the men they immediately went and possessed this herd of 2000 pigs. Demons have an effect on those they possess, and it is always negative. It is always destructive. These pigs couldn’t handle it and suddenly the entire herd ran violently over the cliff into the sea and perished.

In more advanced societies, a person who is seriously deranged by demons is likely to be considered insane and placed in a mental institution, and it seems certain that many people who are diagnosed as mentally ill are actually demonized. – ***John MacArthur***

You see the world has a “medical model” and tries to see everything through that lens, but in truth there is also a “spiritual model” and the only cure for demons is Jesus.

Slide # 23

One should not go to the extreme either of explaining all demon possession as mental illness or concluding that all mental illness is demon possession. – **Howard Vos**

Sometimes it is hard to know whether it is a situation involving demonic activity or some other factor. It is sometimes hard to know whether this is a medical problem or a purely spiritual problem. So, we need to be careful!

But we do want to say that Christ is the answer for all our spiritual problems. When it comes to salvation and sanctification Jesus Christ ALONE is the full answer.

Footnote: Some say this is the only recorded miracle by Jesus that was destructive. But I beg to differ. Jesus delivered the men of these demons. That is positive and constructive. And Jesus did not force these demons to possess the pigs, He simply allowed it. God is not responsible for what He allows.

We often say that under the umbrella of God's sovereignty He promotes some things, He prevents some things, and He PERMITS some things! But in the case of God permitting things (like sin) we cannot hold God accountable for what free-will agents do. There is a difference between what God permits and what He promotes. Here we see Christ permitting the demons to possess this herd of swine but He didn't cause it. He didn't directly bring about the death of this herd of hogs. The demons did!

Again, as I have noted Christ in presenting His kingdom credentials as King as seen in His kingdom miracles always did miracles that were positive – always a blessing in keeping with kingdom blessings. Thus, He gave a little sample, a little preview of the coming kingdom in His deliverance ministry while He was here on earth showing that indeed He was the true Messiah.

33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

Those tending to the hogs evidently were aware of exactly what was happening. They knew Jesus had delivered these demon possessed men. They knew the demons had entered their pigs which promptly resulted in mass suicide by the entire herd. And it terrified them. They fled back to the city (evidently Gadara) and reported everything.

34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

These “swine herders” in effect became “evangelists” and the whole city responded – they all came out to meet Jesus. Only ONE problem – they responded NEGATIVELY. When they saw Jesus they did not welcome Him, rather they begged Him to depart from their region.

These people were “awestruck” but unrepentant. One can know the truth and yet reject it. Sometimes Christians think if there was just more evidence people would respond. Rejection is not essentially an intellectual issue, but rather fundamentally a HEART issue.

People don't believe because they don't want to believe.

John 3:19 (NKJV)

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

The evidence is more than sufficient. The Word of God is sufficient. The Spirit's enlightenment of conviction is sufficient. The problem here was not a lack of evidence, but rather they didn't want Jesus interfering with their lives.

And you know what – if you beg Jesus to leave He will leave. He does not force His way in. I do not find that GRACE is irresistible. In fact, I find the Scripture saying in 2 Cor. 6:1 “not to receive the grace of God in vain”. I Acts 7:51 I find rebellious people resisting the Holy Spirit. And In Hebrew 10:29 I see that in rejection it is possible to insult the Spirit of grace.

The Spirit woos, He convicts, He invites, but He does not force. That is why Hebrews 3:7-8 says, “**Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...**”.

These people put pigs over people. They put economics over deliverance. They put the unclean over the holy. And they put demons over the Savior! This is a perfect example of the world does in loving darkness rather than light. It makes no spiritual sense whatsoever, but that's the world for you – a world lost in rebellion and darkness.

Two questions: 1) Who is Jesus? 2) Who is Jesus to you? It is not enough to know the truth about Jesus, we must RECIEVE Him personally for Who He is as Lord and Savior.

Slide # 24

John 1:11–12 (NKJV)

11 He came to His own, and His own **did not receive Him**.

12 But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**:

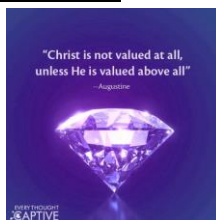
Ralph Waldo Emerson was a famous philosopher who lived in the 1800s (May 25, 1803 – April 27, 1882). He wrote:

Historical Christianity has fallen into the error that corrupts all attempts to communicate religion. It has dwelt, it dwells, with noxious exaggeration about the *person* of Jesus.”

Now there is a blasphemous blunder for the ages! This misses the entire point of the gospels! Not only is Christianity NOT a noxious exaggeration about the person of Christ, but in truth His GREATNESS cannot be over-exaggerated.

For true believers Jesus is LORD over all! His authority is total! His power knows no bounds whether in relation to nature or demons. No matter the realm Jesus is Lord over all! As Paul says in Col. 3:11 for us as believers “Christ is all and in all”.

Slide # 25



The Bible says, as the God-Man God has highly exalted Him and that one day every at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God (cf. Phil. 2:9-11).

Every demon will bow in confession of Christ’s Lordship. The devil will bow. Ralph Waldo Emerson will bow. There are no exceptions! The only issue is when we will bow.

Believers bow in repentance and faith in this life. Unbelievers die in defiance only to find themselves bowing before the sentence of eternal damnation.

So, who is Jesus to you? Is He God? Is He your personal God? Is He your Savior? Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved". The Bible says NOW is the time. Tomorrow may forever be too late.

Christ invites you to come. Receive Him by faith for WHO He is as Lord and Savior!