

Mark 1:23

Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

Ever since I became a Christian, I do not like to watch horror movies, because as a Christian, why would I want demons to be my entertainment?

But I do remember seeing them in the past, and one thing they would always do was to run into a church to be saved from the demon or monster that was chasing them. But that's Hollywood's version of how to escape demons.

Yet, when we read today's verse, we read that a demon possessed man was in the synagogue (church).

Let's read the verse before today's, which says:

† **Mark 1:22** *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Then put it together with today's verse of, "*Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit.*" When I read that, I have to wonder how long this demon possessed man has been going to the synagogue, and how long did he feel comfortable, hiding his lifestyle in the synagogue. We don't read that the demon ever spoke while in the synagogue before this time or that the man cried out for help from how the demons had taken over him. But as soon as Jesus came in and taught the word of God in truth "*they were astonished at His teaching*" that was when the demon cried out.

† **Mark 1:24** *saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"*

With Jesus responding with:

† **Mark 1:25** *But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"*

Was the reason the demons or the man never spoke out was because the word of God was not taught in truth, or that the ones teaching it, were not godly men? It makes us wonder how many are in our churches that may not be demon possessed but have been going for months, or even years and are not saved.

I remember a friend of mine told his story in a home bible study one night, where he confessed that for years he would go to church and bible studies, because he liked the people, how they were nice to him and how they treated him, but he was not a Christian, and he hid it well, because he knew all the Christian lingo, words that only Christians really say. He blended in with

the crowd, but was on a different road than they were, because he was not a believer like they were.

The good part of his story is that he came to faith in Jesus Christ and is a Christian and has been for many years. Yet no one knew for the longest time that he wasn't.

Long story short, we can't assume that someone is a believer, simply because they go to church or hang out at church functions, or even serve, helping out in the church. It also doesn't mean that we go on a witch hunt looking for them but rather seek the Lord to show us the lost that are in our churches and to bring to a faith in Jesus Christ.

“Father, may you reveal to us those who are not saved, that we may love them and show them the right way to salvation in Your Son Jesus Christ, and help them walk that straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life in You. In Jesus name, Amen!”

- † **Galatians 2:16** *knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*
- † **Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*
- † **Matthew 7:13-14** *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*