

## **DRIVING OUT DEMONS**

**Mark 1:29-39**

### **ONCE UPON A TIME**

- ... a child named Lucy walks into a wardrobe and finds herself in Narnia.
- ... a girl named Alice notices a looking glass and enters Wonderland.
- ... Dorothy sits in a farmhouse in Kansas and ends up in the Land of Oz.

“The fairy-tale world that they all stepped into was very different from the world they normally lived in ... but the point seems to be that they do not have to go a great distance to enter it ...” (Frederick Buechner)

### **HOW FAR IS HEAVEN?**

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

The *good news* is that this world is not all there is. There is another realm. Jesus is announcing the existence and availability of another dimension of existence, another world.

The Kingdom of God is closer than you think!

Once upon a time ...

- ... a baby was born in Bethlehem and a few shepherds and a handful of wise men walked through a door that led to splendor.
- ... four men were fishing, and ended up in another world.
- ... Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever;
- ... they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons.

### **IT’S MORPHING TIME**

“Maybe above all they are tales about transformation .. the ugly duckling becomes a great white swan, the frog is revealed to be a prince, and the beautiful but wicked queen is revealed ... in all her ugliness.” (Buechner)

This means that our story is the story of transformation. You will not always be as you are now; the day is coming when you will be better or worse.

“All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to become one or other of these destinations ... immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”  
(C.S. Lewis)

“Sometimes amazing, unexpected, inexplicable cures do take place. But healing ... By the grace and love of God, we know and believe that there is *always* healing.” (Carl Schenck)

The Morphing of Mabel (Tom Schmidt)

“When morphing happens ... I don’t just go around trying to do the right things, I

*become* the right person.” (John Ortberg)

To preach the gospel is to claim that “once upon a time” is now, and this is the wardrobe or the looking glass through which we walk to find forever!

**Prayer Concerns:** *Burney Biesel, Brain Haslop, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Mildred Sentell, Doris Swafford, Joe Tidwell Jr., Carol Webb, Lucille Alwerdt, Madelyn Beamon, Ray Billings, Dorothy Burns, Gene Burns, Patti Chou, Betty Crenshaw, Rachel Cobb, Diane Donner, Ed Gatlin, Charles Hamilton, Jean Hansford, Kristi Jackson, Charles Jamison, Joyce Kuhl, Gene Lee, Judy Malaquias, Margaret Moore, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Moody Palmer, Philip Pinnion, Lori Smith, Marian Wiehle, our troops ...*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Father of all eternity, we praise your name for the joy of life, for the wonders of this beautiful world in which we live, and for giving meaning to life by the perfect example of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for all those who have touched us with support and strength, those who have entered into our lives at some moment of need, and given us reason for keeping on when we wanted to give up. Some came as teachers. Some as preachers, some as good friends, some as family. But they came, just when the light was burning low, and we are grateful for them.

Show us those who walk now in darkness, and who need some word of direction from us. Some are without friends, some feel lonely and unattractive, some are confused. They are all around us, so help us make the grand discovery that when we forget about our own problems long enough to help someone else, we grow stronger for it.

We pray for all those who need a hand to hold onto, for the bereaved and lonely, for those fighting such hard battles in life. Be with us, and touch us with your presence, for we lift this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### MARK 1:29-39

And immediately he left the synagogue, and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him pursued him, and they found him and said to him, "Every one is searching for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### In the Sanctuary:

February 12	<i>Running the Race</i>	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
February 19	<i>Yes and No</i>	2 Corinthians 1:18-22
February 22	<i>Renaissance Choir</i>	6:30 p.m.
February 26	<i>It's Good to Be Here</i>	Mark 9:2-9
March 1	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	6:30 p.m.

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

February 12	<i>Walking Through the Valley</i>	Psalm 23:4-6
February 19	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 1)</i>	Matthew 6:9-13
February 26	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 2)</i>	Matthew 6:9-13