

# Tri-State Community Church

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*Gathering a family who loves and serves God through  
Jesus Christ and leads others in kind.*

A Bible Study in Mark  
*The Gospel Ministry and the Demonic Realm*

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Mark 6:7-9

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## Mark 6:7-9<sup>1</sup>

### The Gospel Ministry and the Demonic Realm

*And [Jesus] called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits (Mark 6:7).*

As we have studied the Gospel of Mark we have learned that Jesus has prayerfully chosen twelve men to accompany Him in His innermost circle. He has loved them, instructed them, and mentored them. Now Jesus will temporarily split them up and send them into the field without Him.

Jesus calls these twelve men and gives them authority *over the unclean spirits*. All who are involved in ministry must remember this fact:

Gospel ministry extends into the demonic realm.

Paul says *“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).*

Who are *the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers, and the spiritual forces* that Paul is making reference? They are Satan and His company of fallen angels known as the demonic realm.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus has numerous encounters with demons (Mark 1:23-24, 34; 5:1-20). These encounters are clear examples of demon possession which is one of the most acute examples where earthly ministry contacts the demonic realm. Jesus and the Apostles deal with demon possession with great frequency.

What I have in view at the present is not demonic possession but demonic deception. Though scholars and theologians may debate over the extent of demonic possession in our present day,

Know this for sure, we have all been deceived by the demonic realm.

Paul exposes this Biblical truth when he describes the believer’s former life in unbelief: *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath” (Ephesians 2:1-3).*

According to Scripture we are either followers of Christ or followers of the devil. The scary thing about this truth is that while we are follower of the devil (the ruler of the

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<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version.

kingdom of the air) we don't realize it. When I was an unbeliever I did not realize I was a follower of the devil. In fact I would have found that notion repugnant! This is true deception my friends. When we have been deceived by a pro we do not realize what has hit us. Well the devil is a pro!

Now as we set out to do ministry in this world we set out to be used by God to deliver men, woman, and children from the deception of this demonic realm.

### Gospel ministry must deal with the demonic realm.

How do we as human beings rise up against this powerful and unseen demonic realm? By proclaiming the truth in the name of Jesus in full dependence upon God. By our selves we are powerless against so mighty an enemy therefore we dare not go about Gospel ministry in dependence upon our own wisdom, strength, or power but we must go in complete dependency upon God.

Now if Jesus wanted to teach His disciples to depend upon God for all things what better way to do it than send them out in pairs with no provisions. That is exactly what He did: *Jesus charged [the twelve] to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics (Mark 6:8-9).*

The disciples will have no choice but to depend upon God's provision for food, shelter, and success.

What are the implications of this for us as we labor to plant Tri-State Community Church?

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