

This Is War, Part 2: Sermon Study Guide

The Story Houston - March 17, 2019

Eric Huffman - Lead Pastor

fb/ig: @pastorerichuffman tw: @erichestory

thestoryhouston@gmail.com



Intro to 'This Is War'

Welcome to this new, 4-part sermon series about the spiritual battles of everyday life. For the next month, we will study what the Bible says about the spiritual realm, and we'll play close attention to what Jesus had to say about Satan, angels, demons, and the epic struggle of light against the darkness. I know this subject will be uncomfortable for some people; you might not believe in creatures like demons at all. If that's the case, all I ask is that you approach these teachings with an open mind. Remember: you can always bring questions, feedback, or push-back to the 5:00 Q&A service, or email me at the above address.

Reflection Question: The Bible presents Satan as a deceiver, and Jesus called him "the father of lies." How have you personally experienced the deception of your spiritual enemy?

*"It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds:
in reality our best work is done by keeping things out."*

- Screwtape (a chief demon), *The Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis

Why do you think sophisticated, "successful" people are less likely to take Satan and spiritual evil seriously?

Matthew 8:28-34 When [Jesus] arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

Why were these two men hanging out in a cemetery? What is the relationship between demonic forces and death in the Bible?

This Is War, Part 2: Sermon Study Guide

The Story Houston - March 17, 2019

Eric Huffman - Lead Pastor

fb/ig: @pastorerichuffman tw: @ericthestory

thestoryhouston@gmail.com



What are some modern examples of evil's obsession with death?

What did the demon-possessed men call Jesus, and why is that significant?

What did pigs signify to Jesus and his people? Why would these demons ask to be "relocated" into pigs? Why would Jesus feel okay about destroying a herd of them?

Why do you think the townspeople begged Jesus to leave their region? Have you ever experienced or witnessed *demonic intolerance of God*?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

What are your key strategies in this war?

What are your blind spots, and how has your enemy exposed them in the past?

When under spiritual siege, what is your plan for counter-attack?

Your notes: