

# Exorcising

Mark 3:14-15 NRSV

# Evil

A Sermon by Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall-Turman

#wearealfredstreet #asbc



Sunday, January 26, 2020

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman

Sermon: Exercising Evil

Scripture: Mark 3:14-15; 5:9 (NRSV)



## CURRICULUM GUIDE



## Sermon Summary

This weekend we were blessed by a powerful message from the Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman. She opened her sermon by celebrating our ancestral heritage and reminding us that the roots of white supremacist evil extend back to churches sitting on top of slave dungeons. It is this evil that we are called and empowered to "exorcise."

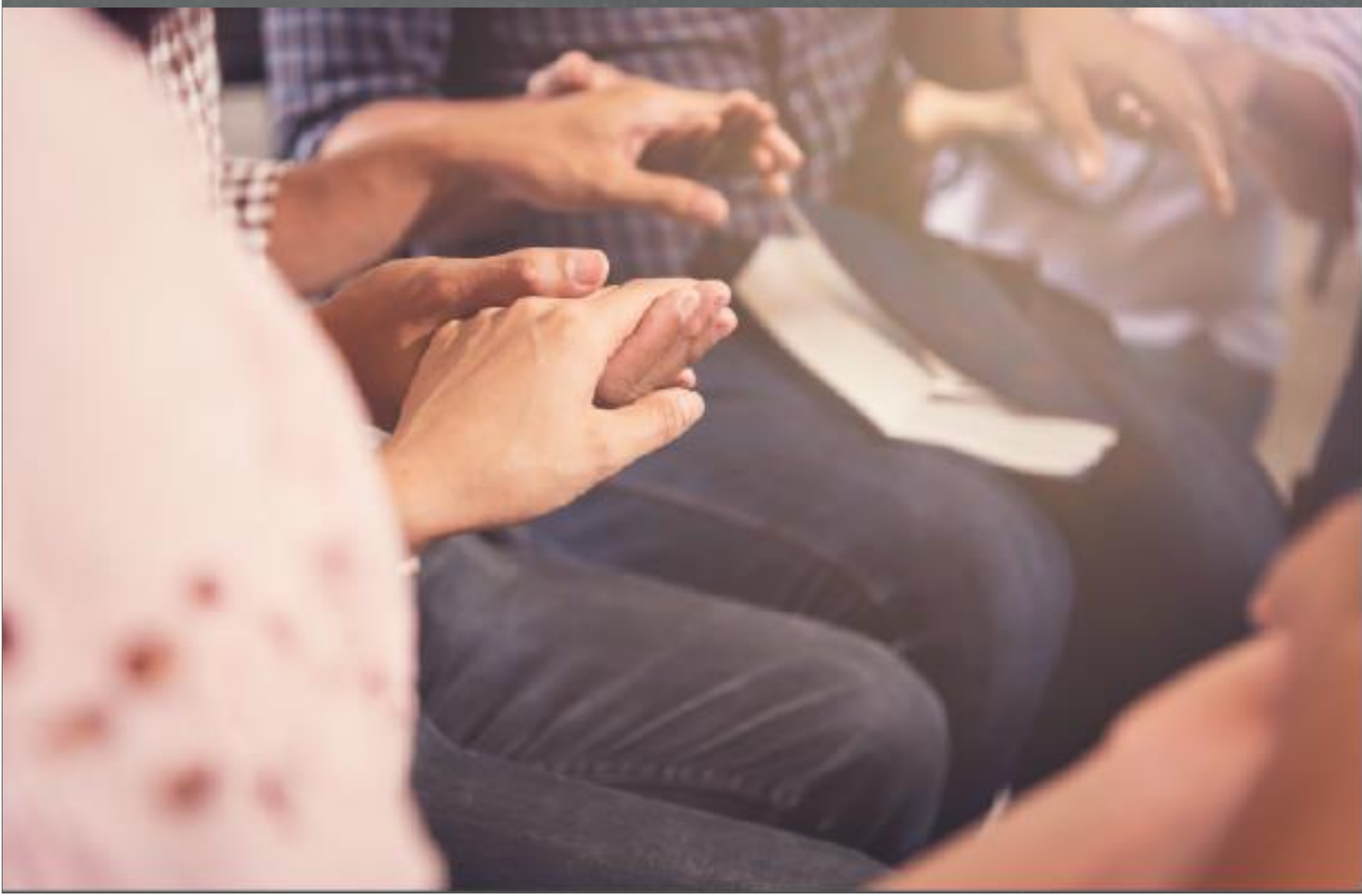
We exorcise evil by following the example of Jesus in his interaction with demons in the gospel of Mark. Just as the disciples were called to cast out demons, we are called to name the demons in our society and personal lives. Once we name the evil around us, we can begin to cast it out and empower the people of God.

# Notes for Facilitators:

As you continue to settle into this new season we pray that your conversation and camaraderie are continuing to grow. Next week will be an off week. As we prepare to return from our off week, we hope that you will remember the Village leadership essential of “Sharing the Load.” This is a good time for new group members to step up and host or to assist in leading the group dialogue.

## Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. Dr. Marshall Turman referred to Jesus as a “poor black Jewish Palestinian Rabbi from a ghetto named Nazareth.” Reflect on the images of Jesus you saw growing up. Where do you see similarities and differences?
3. Dr. Marshall Turman joked that she hasn’t yet taken an ancestry test, but she remarked that she is a child of an enslaved people. What personality or spiritual traits have you inherited from your ancestors?



# Into The Bible Questions:

1. Mark 3:14-15 indicates that Jesus chose 12 disciples for 3 reasons: 1) to be with him, 2) to proclaim the message, and 3) to cast out evil, perhaps suggesting that in order to do the last two tasks effectively, we can't do it alone. Who are those people in our lives that are called to "be with us" and help us bear the weight of the world?
2. In Mark 5:9, Jesus asks the demoniac, "what is your name?" Has there been a time when what you went through became your name? Maybe you went through a break-up, or financial hardship, or a period of unemployment and that became your identity. How did you cast out that identity to reclaim who God says you are?
3. Dr. Marshall Turman preached about exorcising evil and a good portion of the sermon's content and style was sharing encouraging scriptures, showing how God's word can be a tool to fight evil. Which scriptures do you rely on when facing spiritual or systemic evil in everyday life?

# Life Application Questions:

1. Dr. Marshall Turman indicated there are economic, political, social, moral, global, and transnational dimensions of spiritual wickedness. If Jesus calls us as disciples to cast out evil, where do we see spiritual wickedness playing out in our lives and community, and which of these dimensions do you see Jesus calling us to cast out?
2. Dr. Marshall Turman shared that Jesus chose fishermen who couldn't catch any fish to do God's work in the earth. If Jesus calls imperfect people, how do we accept that reality and move forward to do the work God calls us to?
3. Dr. Marshall Turman paraphrased the story in Mark 5:9 saying that Jesus asks the demoniac, "what are you up against?" If this same question was asked of you, how might you reply in this season of your life?
4. Describe an experience where you realized that you were fighting not against flesh and blood but against principalities.
  - a) How did you perceive that you were fighting a spiritual battle?
  - b) Which dimensions of spiritual warfare do you find yourself engaged with the most?
  - c) How do you approach the fight using the authority God's given you?



## "Can I Push It?"

Dr. Marshall Turman recounted visiting the Door of No Return where she observed that there was a church above the darkness of the slave dungeon. What spiritual wickedness have you observed the modern church "on top of?"

## Spirit Work:

Ephesians 6:11-18 explains, "Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The author goes on to list the roles of 5 pieces of armor:

- a. The belt of truth
- b. The breastplate of righteousness
- c. Shoes of the gospel
- d. Shield of faith
- e. Helmet of salvation

Review each piece of the armor, its physical make-up and spiritual meanings. Choose one of these pieces of armor for each day of the week and plan to put on the whole armor of God daily.



# Activity:

## ***Bible Breakdown***

Find a partner or a small group of three. Once in your group, take 10 minutes to find one scriptural reference that talks about how we as believers should address the following dimensions of spiritual warfare (wickedness). (Note that the group can decide whether to use the entire Bible or just the New Testament.)

- Economic disparity
- Political disenfranchisement
- Hunger
- Hate based on cultural differences
- Sexism

After all scriptural references have been found by each pair or group of three, come back to the larger group to discuss how each reference addresses the dimension of spiritual warfare.

## **Additional Question for Married Couples Villages:**

1. Identify ancestors or current examples of couples who exemplified/exemplify the kind of marriage you want to achieve. What were some of their difficult times or spiritual battles? How did they overcome them and how can you use their examples to strengthen your marriage?
2. Dr. Marshall Turman reminded us that there are many dimensions to spiritual warfare. What dimensions of warfare did you discover in marriage that you didn't foresee or understand before marriage?

### **Additional Question for Young Adult Villages:**

1. How have you experienced systemic oppression in your life and how have God and community helped you navigate it? If you have not personally experienced systemic oppression(s), how can you come out of “self” to help encourage or change the lives of those who are currently affected by these systems?
2. Dr. Marshall Turman describes the disciples as the “politically disenfranchised,” “the rag tag crew,” and “the fishermen who caught no fish,” and yet Jesus chose them. As young adults, growing and developing in faith, do you ever feel unequipped, unprepared, or inadequate to do God’s work?

### **Additional Questions for Parents’ Villages:**

1. Dr. Marshall Turman discussed the great work of our ancestors from Harriet Tubman to Nat Turner to Mary McLeod Bethune and how we are their descendants. How have you passed on the legacy and lessons of your ancestors to your children? What traits (good and bad) do you see in yourself and your parenting from those models of parenting you’ve seen before you?
2. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that we “wrestle not against flesh and blood.” How are you preparing your children for the powers, principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places that is to come? What spiritual practices or traditions are you establishing now to build their spiritual muscle?

### **Additional Questions for Women Villages:**

1. Hebrews 12:1 talks about a “great cloud of witnesses” who ran and finished their races and now serve as witnesses for us to know we can successfully finish ours.
  - a. Name foremothers and forefathers who encourage you to continue strong in the faith during difficult times. Explain.
  - b. Take time to think about who you want to honor with your life by “pressing” to finish well and allowing God to fulfill His purpose in your life.
2. Dr. Marshall Turman talked about her brother’s new bench press and how he got the weight down to his chest, but could not lift it back up. Black women have been often held to an expectation of strength, so much so, that it can be difficult to ask for help. Where has the weight in your life been too heavy and how easy or difficult was it to ask for help? How can we learn to cast our cares upon Him for He cares for us?