MADNESS BADNESS SADNESS

In the ministry of Jesus, sickness and demon possession are always identified <u>separately</u> and treated <u>differently</u>.

... and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering with severe pain, the demon possessed, the lunatics [sickness whose severity seems to be affected by the moon i.e. epilepsy or mental illness] and the paralyzed. He healed them.

(Matthew 4:24-25)

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon possessed... and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons...

(Mark 1:32)

Mental illness and demon oppression/possession are two very different realities. Mental = <u>malfunction</u> (genetic, injury, deprivation, drug use, aging process)

Demonic = <u>invasion</u> (beachhead, foothold, entrance given to an evil spirit... knowingly or unknowingly) Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold

(Ephesians 4:26-27)

topos = place, position, location, base
NIV = foothold NEB = loophole
Holman = opportunity CEV = chance

Mental = <u>dissociative</u> (unable to comprehend reality)

Demonic = <u>destructive</u> (violence, harmful behavior)

One way to "test the spirits" is to confront the individual with the <u>reality</u> and <u>identity</u> of Jesus Christ. A demon will not respond <u>positively</u> or <u>worshipfully</u>. No one who is speaking by the Spirit of God will say, "Jesus be cursed." And no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3) The power of Satan upon a Christian is <u>limited</u> to temptation/interference unless we <u>foolishly</u> give opportunity to do more.

Mental illness is no different than physical illness in its impact on our eternal destiny. God is not fazed by behavior that is strange or confused any more than he is put off by a crooked nose or amputated limb. He judges faith and motive.

All of my days were written in your book before even one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:16) Man's days are determined. You have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.

(Job 14:5)

SCRPTURE DOES NOT:

- address suicide
- equate suicide with murder
- describe suicide as an <u>unpardonable</u> sin

SCRIPTURE DOES:

- describe folks who <u>wanted</u> or <u>asked</u> to die, but were <u>confronted</u> and <u>encouraged</u> by God to overcome their selfish focus and keep living (Jonah, Elijah, etc.)
- Call us to <u>persevere</u> and <u>triumph</u> in suffering, pain, and misery.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Be <u>aware</u>.

Be involved (with the person)

<u>Share</u> the gospel, etc. Your witness may be used by God to lift them from despair and give hope and courage to them!

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