



"What's Your Name?" - February 2023
Thoughts to Ponder

1. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is confronted by a man possessed by "an unclean spirit."
(Mark 5:2 ESV)
 - a. Do you dismiss terms like demons, evil spirits and unclean spirits as being superstitions not to be taken seriously by educated folks in the 21st century? If so, why?
 - b. We tend to coin names for behaviors we don't understand: "going postal" and "road rage" for example. Name others.
 - c. Do you tend to avoid contact with folks who are unpredictable and risky to be around? Give a real-life example.

2. Many folks are knowingly possessed by hurtful demons, yet they cannot seem to break free from their control.
 - a. Have you ever thought of pride, selfishness, temper and addictions as unclean spirits? Name others.
 - b. Are you battling with any unclean spirits at the moment? If so, name them. If not, take a more honest look at yourself.
 - c. How have you tried to overcome your demons?

3. We've all experienced times when we felt like we were more than one person.
 - a. Describe something you did and subsequently rationalized by saying, "I don't know what came over me!"
 - b. St. Paul says it's because we're "all prisoners of the law of sin" (Romans 7:23 NIV) that we act against the highest and best within us. Do you agree? If not, what's your explanation?
 - c. St. Paul teaches that only through Jesus can we overcome the evil within us (Romans 7:24-25 NIV). Do you agree? If so, give the rationale for your faith? If not, why your skepticism?

