

Sermon Parable of the Strong Man

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church, 5/29/22

Matthew 12:28-32

Background: Last week we looked at Jesus healing a man possessed and how different groups reacted to this miracle. We discussed our society today is invaded by false and misleading information. We looked at an example of disinformation in the Bible when the Pharisees tried to discredit the work and ministry of Jesus by spreading fake news.

We discussed the three different perspectives.

- ❖ People – see a miracle, see Jesus as Christ, experience God and the truth.
- ❖ Pharisees or self-righteous - see a miracle, see a fellow rather than the Christ, see the devil and a lie.
- ❖ The Jesus perspective – how to deal with haters and those who accuse you when you are doing the Kingdom work.

We continue this week with a closer look at the actual parable Jesus uses to explain the danger in spreading false information as it pertains to the Kingdom.

²⁸ But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. ²⁹ Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Jesus now counters the misinformation of the Pharisees with the truth. If it doesn't make sense that he would cast out devils through the power of satan, then he must cast them out using the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, if it is through the power of the Holy Ghost, then the Kingdom of God has arrived. That means our deliverance has arrived through Christ.

What does it mean the kingdom of God is come? Kingdom means dominion or rule. It would seem then that this means God is starting to have control and rule over an area or situation when you see the work of the Holy Spirit is evident in a place. If His Kingdom is coming to you, then He is ready to rule over your situation. That's good news because if His Kingdom comes, His will be done.

He adds a parable for further emphasis and understanding. You can't enter into a strong person's house and destroy or bring down that house, unless you first take out and eliminate the threat of the strong man. Only then will you be successful. In other words, if you are trying to bring down the devil's house, you have to bind him first....Jesus is showing he has that authority over the strong man (satan).

We are talking about God and the Kingdom having dominion and that won't happen unless and until the person in charge and running things now is removed. The devil has to be dealt with before God has dominion over a situation.

Look at the parable.

- ❖ If we fight against ourselves, we cannot stand. This applies to us as individuals, families, churches, as a nation. We may need to stop fighting against each other.
- ❖ If we are to defeat the enemy working in our life, we have to first bind the strong man. That means we have to bring under control the power of the enemy before we can cast out the unclean things in us. The parable shows we cannot do this in our own strength.
- ❖ Jesus is the one who can bind the strong man and deliver us.
- ❖ Until you deal with the enemy, it will be hard to have victory in the relationship, the home, on the job, with the family, in the church, in the city, in the state, in the country, in the world.

What do the features of the parable represent:

- Strong man – satan
- The one who can bind him – Jesus
- The house – represents us, our temple/body – Reference Revelation 3:20
- The goods – what the devil has control over and has taken from us

We can't bind the strong man....we need help.

How can we have Jesus bind satan for us? Follow the first four steps/levels is the key:

- Humbly submit to God and recognize the need for help,
- Repent and change your mind about trying to work things out in your own strength,
- Place your hope in Jesus, accept His life and let Him live in you,
- Be led by the Holy Spirit and through His power, bring glory to God and minister to others.

Observation:

- When I was lost, satan controlled my house.
- If I want my stuff back and how can I get Jesus to bind the strong man today? The answer is to simply follow the four steps above.

³⁰ He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

³¹ Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Jesus now explains the danger in this kind of illogical argument and position the Pharisees have taken. If you are not with Jesus and not gathering souls with him, then you are working against him and

scattering the sheep. If you are not working with Jesus for the Kingdom, you are working against the Kingdom and the will of God. That is not a good thing. **Their pride and desire to remain in power has them actively working against the kingdom of God** and places them in severe judgement. Got to remember who the Pharisees are.....they are very religious, and they hang out in the temple.

You can still find the modern day self-righteous people in the same places today.

The unpardonable sin – there is a sin that Jesus here describes that will not be forgiven. Even speaking against Jesus himself can be forgiven but speaking against the Holy Ghost is not forgivable; saying Jesus worked miracles through an unclean spirit.

Blasphemy = slander, evil speaking, railing.

They were not just speaking against Jesus but slandering the Holy Ghost by attributing the power of Jesus to satan rather than giving proper credit to the Holy Spirit.

What they were doing was in fact speaking against the Holy Ghost because they were speaking against the work of the Holy Ghost through Jesus. This according to Jesus is unforgiveable.

Application for today – why should we care and how can we use this?

- ❖ The people started to believe in Christ as a result of the manifestation of the work of the Spirit.
- ❖ Out of fear Mark 3:29-30 shows these Pharisees are in danger of damnation because they are lying on the Holy Spirit by saying the work being done is through the power of an unclean spirit. We should be careful not to make the same mistake. Is it possible to attribute the working of the Spirit through others to an unclean spirit? Is the sin only in reference to the works of Jesus or can it also apply to his disciples since Christ lives in them? I believe the answer is it can also happen to us....we should be careful not to make the mistake of the Pharisees.
- ❖ We may be particularly at risk if we go beyond criticizing people and denying the power of the Holy Spirit working in their life.

Summary:

The Spirit of God is the truth, do not deny the truth through stubborn pride. This places us on dangerous ground.....the same ground and position that these Pharisees are on. Follow the steps!

Whatever God is getting ready to do here, I'm ready, have no fear...He reigns!