

The Gospel's Enemies

Mark 3:7-34

*In this parable [Mk. 3:23-27] Satan is the **strong man**, who guards what belongs to him. Jesus' ministry, both in the case of casting the demon out of the man who was mute, and in the broader sense, is defeating this **strong man**... Jesus looks at every life delivered from Satan's domination and says, "I'm plundering the kingdom of Satan one life at a time." There is nothing in our life that must stay under Satan's domination. The **one who binds the strong man and will plunder his house** is our risen Lord. The truth is that because of the sin of Adam, we were born in Satan's house. Then we also stayed on by our own choice. But when Jesus comes into our life, there is never a reason for someone to be in Satan's house. Guzik*

- I. Jesus entered a world controlled by three powerful forces: the evil world system with its idols, the sin nature of man, and the spiritual forces of evil controlled by Satan. All three are the gospel's enemies. Their darkness works against the light of the gospel. Jesus didn't come to change the evil world system and its desires. He didn't come to eradicate idols. He didn't come to eliminate the influence of Satan and his demons. He came to snatch souls from the darkness of Satan's house by exposing them to the light. Isaiah prophesying to the godless nation of Israel said, "Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isa. 2:5). The best and only way to defeat our enemies is to walk in the light of the Lord.

Mark 3:7-12

James 2:19

John 8:12

John 12:46 *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

- II. As his disciples, Jesus didn't call us to be popular with the world by adopting its ways, instead he called us to be true to him despite what the world might think of us. He tutors each one of us individually to shape and form our hearts and minds to communicate his gospel of love to those in desperate need of salvation. If we allow the fear of man to dictate, then we've essentially allowed the enemy of fear to control us more than the Holy Spirit's desire to express himself through us. It always comes down to whether or not we can say with confidence, *"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

Mark 3:13-21, 31-34

Heb. 13:6

Eph. 2:19

John 6:53-54, 60, 66-70

Luke 6:12-13

Eph. 2:19

Matt. 19:29

2 Tim. 1:7-8a

Prov. 29:25 *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trust in the Lord is kept safe.*

- III. Two kingdoms exist in the world; one belongs to Satan and the other to God. They have been at war with one another since time immemorial. Those who belong to Satan's kingdom are held captive through his deceptive lies, while those who belong to God's kingdom have been set free by his truth. Satan's goal is to keep as many of his citizens as possible from being liberated by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. The weapon Jesus uses to snatch people from Satan's grip is the light of the gospel. It has power to penetrate the darkness of sin and wickedness by drawing people into the light of salvation and freedom. Those who are willing to open their eyes to receive the light of the gospel will be saved, but those who refuse seal their fate of unforgiveness upon death.

Mark 3:22-30

2 Ki. 1:2

Jn. 10:19-20

1 Jn. 5:19-20

2 Thess. 2:9

Gal. 1:4

Heb. 2:14-15

"These words were never intended to torment anxious souls honestly desiring to know Christ, but they stand out as a blazing beacon warning of the danger of persisting in the rejection of the Spirit's testimony of Christ, until the seared conscience no longer responds to the gospel message." (Ironsides)