

The Strong Man Must Be Dislodged

Luke 11:21-23

Jesus has just healed a man afflicted with demons, and the Pharisees accused Him of being the Prince of demons. Jesus responds, "I'm casting out demons by the power (finger) of God." He then tells a parable. This parable "parallels" real life. It's a story of how people (like you and me) are removed from bondage.

"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed (lit. 'at peace'). But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he relied and distributes his plunder" (vs. 21-22).

I. The strong man is the spiritual force (demon) subjecting the man (see v. 14).

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). Paul was familiar with the Olympia games in Olympia, or the Corinthian games in Corinth. And the wrestling matches that took place there happened like this: Two men would come together. They would attempt to pin the other. However, when the defeated opponent was on his back, the referee did not count out the seconds. The victor would take his forearm, place it against the throat of his opponent, and literally crush his windpipe. So that not only was his opponent defeated or beaten. Now he was knocked breathless. Now if that did not kill him, those who had gathered to watch the match, would take the defeated one outside of the arena, take an instrument called a gouge and would gouge his eyes out. The one who lost the match was beaten, breathless and also blinded.

II. The strong man's "house" is the man subjected to the power of the demonic (v 21).

Notice something about the strong man (Satan) when he is fully armed, in control of "his house." He is "at peace" (undisturbed). When a soul begins to feel an internal war, Jesus Christ is moving in. Jesus says "the strong man" guards his house and his "possessions." What does he possess?

(A). The tongue – *you won't declare the wonders of God.*

Romans 10:10 says, "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Revelation 12:17 says, "And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony." "Children of the heavenly King will speak their joys abroad" - the hymn *We're Marching to Zion*.

(B). The eyes – *you can't discern the ways of God.*

"Do not be wise in thine own eyes, but understand what the ways of God are" said Solomon. Paul said in Ephesians 1:18 that when God opens the eyes of understanding at salvation.

(C). The hands and feet – *you aren't doing the will of God.*

Psalm 9:17 says "to establish the work of our hands", to insure that our hands do God's work. When a person is bound by Satan, the works of the hands are never for Kingdom purposes.

(D). The ears – *you don't desire the word of God.*

Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." In order for a strong man to be dislodged from his peaceful home, one "stronger than he" must come.

III. The evidence that the strong man is dislodged is in who now controls the house (v. 23).

"He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters" (Luke 11:23). Before Paul tells us that we wrestle against "spiritual forces of wickedness" he says something else. "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). This phrase, "in the power of His might" is a Hebraism. It literally means, "in the almighty power of God." Would you like to be spiritually unbound? You can't do it yourself. It requires His almighty power. All great corporate and personal revivals begin with fresh understanding of our need for His power.