

Happy Father's Day!

Saying Goodbye to Kelly Smith and Brian Gottshall

## The Parables, #25

### "Binding the Strongman"

#### Mark 3:22-30, Part 3

Let's review:

**This is a 3-part mini-series to finish up the parables.**

**1. Part 1 (May 29): "Are you Hungry?"**

- Focused on the attitudes and assumptions that led to these words from Jesus (Mark 3:6-22; 28-30)
- I challenged you regarding where you fit in (Scribes, Family, Crowd)

**2. Part 2 (last Sunday): "A House Divided" (3:23-26)**

- Knowing the heart of God regarding division and unity, and living accordingly

**3. Part 3 (Today): "Binding the Strongman" (3:27)**

The accusation that prompts the parable:

- "You are binding Satan by the power of... Satan!" (3:22)
- Jesus: "How can Satan cast out Satan?"
  - that's a blasphemous statement – giving credit to Satan what God is doing,
  - A house divided cannot stand – be it a nation, a church, a family, etc.
  - ... - today's verse:

**Mar 3:27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.**

Interesting analogy for Jesus to use...

- **He's likening a major portion of His ministry to robbing a house.**
- Jesus.
- Savior.
- Meek and mild, tolerant, peaceful, love-is-the-answer, Incarnate Son of God.
- And part-time home invader.

**In v27, Jesus reveals "step 1" of His plan to save the world from sin:**

- **"But no one can enter a strong man's house =**
  - **The strong man represents \_\_\_\_\_ (Satan)**
    - **Tell me everything you know about Satan...**

Satan defined:

- He is not omni-present (only God is)
- Satan was created as a holy angel.
- Isaiah 14:12 possibly gives Satan's pre-fall name as Lucifer.
- Ezekiel 28:12-14 describes Satan as having been created a cherub, apparently the highest created angel.
- Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:15; 1 Timothy 3:6 tell us he became arrogant in his beauty and status and decided he wanted to sit on a throne above that of God.

- Satan's pride led to his fall:
  - Isaiah 14:12-15: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.
- He is an accuser (Revelation 12:10), a tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5), and a deceiver (Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:3).
- His very name means "adversary" or "one who opposes."
- Job, Peter, and James tell us he roams the earth, looking for people to devour.
- His purpose is to deceive unbelievers and steal them from God; as well as to make believers ineffective witnesses, tempting to sin, complacency, feeling worthless, with no authority or power to defeat his plans and purposes.
  - **The house represents \_\_\_\_\_ ("the world")**

Note: Jesus acknowledges Satan's position as the owner of the house.

- John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2 tells us - due to the Fall in Genesis 3 – Satan became the ruler of this world and the prince of the power of the air.
- In Matthew 4, Satan's temptation of Jesus includes a bribe:
  - Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and **showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.**
  - Mat 4:9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
  - Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"
    - Incredibly significant to note Jesus didn't say, "That's not yours to give."
- **and plunder his goods =**
  - **"His goods" represents \_\_\_\_\_ (lost, fallen people)**
    - You, me, every human being, created in the image of God.
- **unless he first binds the strong man.**
  - **Bind = deō = to bind, be in bonds, knit, tie, wind around**
  - The same Greek word "deō" is used in Matthew 13:30, regarding the parable about the wheat and the tares – how the tares will be bound and thrown into the fire at harvest time.
- **Then indeed he may plunder his house.**
  - I believe Jesus emphasized the word "**then**".
  - IOW, Jesus doesn't start casting out demons to begin his ministry because it's
    - The most spiritual
    - The most symbolic
    - The most attention-grabbing
    - A great "sign" to the world of His power
  - Rather, because Jesus is just starting out... because of the meaning of this parable... and because of the word "then"...
    - ... I believe it's clear that **Job #1 in rescuing mankind from sin is to BIND Satan and his demons.**

### So how exactly is Satan “bound”?

- First, **There is NO account in scripture of any created man or woman binding or casting out Satan himself.**
  - When it comes to Satan himself:
    - Jesus does it:
      - Mat\_4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.""
      - Mat\_16:23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me.
      - Rom\_16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
    - **Zechariah 3:2 and Jude 9 tell us when humans/angels encountered Satan, they said, “The Lord rebuke you.”**
- NOWHERE in scripture are God’s created people taught to bind Satan or cast him out
  - And no, not even the apostles cast out Satan.
  - This might be news to some of you.
  - Don’t shoot the messenger if you’re a little caught off guard right now.
  - Search them for yourself. Then get back to me.
- You and I are taught to RESIST the devil.
  - Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
  - 1 Peter 5:8-9, Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith...
    - **But resisting is different than binding or casting out.**

Now, we ARE commanded to cast out demons, but before I go there, let me close the 3-part mini-series...

- I said earlier that **Jesus’ “step 1” in saving the world was to bind Satan.**
  - That’s what v27 means.
  - Jesus acknowledges Satan is the prince of this world – that the spoils of the world indeed belonged to him
  - So here He is in Capernaum – His hometown – just starting out on his ministry and 3-year journey to the Cross...
  - ... and He tells the crowd, essentially, “In order for me to take back the Kingdom – to save my people from Satan’s power, I must first tie him up.”

Perhaps you’ve heard people mockingly say things like, **“Some people see a demon around every corner.”**

- Those who say such things in mocking fashion frankly are **not students of God’s Word.**
  - And if they are (or claim to be), they believe demons were only so active in Jesus’ day, but aren’t nearly as active today.
  - To which I ask, “How do you figure?”
    - Is there less illness?
    - Less deception?
    - Less evil?
  - On the contrary, the darkness is pretty thick!
    - We’re more civilized, so we don’t “outcast” lepers so publicly anymore, but we’re no closer to Utopia regarding diseases, viruses, mental health issues.
  - This morning I want to challenge you with what JESUS is teaching in v27:

- **Before He could save the world, before He could transfer His people from darkness to light, before He could restore order to the house, Jesus first had to bind Satan.**
- **Therefore, why should you and I act any different?**
  - Don't be a cynic about demons and spiritual warfare.
    - The Bible doesn't allow you that assumption.
  - Rather, the Bible encourages you to be WISE about spirits
    - **The Spirit gives gifts** to members of the body to discern spirits.
    - And commands ALL believers to cast out demons when recognized.
  - Perhaps it's true there isn't a demon around every corner, but Biblically, we're commanded to LOOK to be sure!
    - **It's not paranoia. It's POWER.**
  - You're not looking so you can run away.
    - The bug at Joe and Kami's house....
  - Again, you don't look for demons so you can run away.
    - You're looking to you can stand in the authority of Jesus Christ and watch the demon flee, and witness whomever he was deceiving get freedom.

So, let's turn the page and finish this mini-series well, with application regarding what Jesus says in Job #1: Binding the enemy.

**First, who/what are demons?** (tell me everything you know – GO)

- Revelation 12:9 tells us demons are fallen angels:
  - “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”
- Rev. 12:4 says 1/3 of the angels in heaven went with Satan in his fall to earth.
- Demons are referred to as “the powers of this dark world and . . . the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” in Ephesians 6:12 & Colossians 2:15).
- Demons, as spirit beings, have the ability to take possession of a physical body.
- 1 John 4:4 assures us this cannot happen to a child of God:
  - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
    - But indeed, demons can and do INFLUENCE believers – for the purpose of rendering them ineffective in Kingdom work.

**How are demons “cast out”?**

- Scriptures:
  - **Mat 10:1** And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction... (7) And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.
  - **Mar 3:14** And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach (15) and have authority to cast out demons.
  - **Luk 10:1** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.... (17)

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" (18) And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (19) Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (20) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- The examples in the NT of believers casting out demons are so numerous, it's embarrassing and sad how seldom the church practices this today.
  - **If you wonder why evil advances in the world today, look no further than the church's disobedience to do battle with demons.**
- So please, church, this message is not a Fat-Head message.
  - It is a "go and be the church" message just like all those I try to preach.
- At the same time, let's be BIBLICAL in our obedience regarding casting out demons:

**First, a caution: (don't try this at home):**

- Act 19:13 ... *some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*
  - The problem: These guys are identified as "traveling Jewish exorcists"
    - It was a money scheme – a parlor trick
    - They saw it working for Paul, so they tried it, too.
    - No relationship, no evidence of salvation even.
  - Today, if you live for yourself, prideful, profane, think God's ways are old fashioned, or immodest, or lust after others, or find yourself arguing with God about how you think He should be running things, then:
    - 1) Satan's demons are influencing YOU, and needs to be cast out
    - 2) Don't try casting out demons in others until you understand better **whom you are in Christ.**
  - If you're skeptical about demons at all – it MIGHT be due to your inconsistent, questioning, doubting lifestyle regarding the supernatural.
    - **And if that's the case – if you don't know demons, then I suspect they'll say something like, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"**

**Knowing who you are in Christ and living accordingly is REQUIRED for casting out demons.**

- Righteous in that you KNOW God has saved you, forgiven you, empowered you, entrusted you, and equipped you to do the work He created you to do.
  - He MADE you righteous – not by your works, but by His grace.
  - You ARE a kingdom of priests – children of the most high God.
  - And because of that, you humbly yet boldly exercise the authority given you in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord to cast out demons and restore order, health and peace to the possessed, influenced, and greatly deceived people around you.
- Eph 6:10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*
- Eph 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

- *Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
- *Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*
- *Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*
- *Eph 6:15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.*
- *Eph 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;*
- *Eph 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*
- *Eph 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.*

With that understanding and all the scriptures I've used today regarding **Conquering evil, here's a snapshot:**

- **Embrace your priestly role** (who you are in Christ)
- **The name of Jesus Christ**
- **Be watchful – not fearful.**
- **Remember that casting out demons is just the first job.** Healing, salvation, restoration, repentance, disciple-making are all Biblical results when believers cast out the deceiver.
  - Casting out demons is not the “big show” or the “charismatic thing to do”
  - It is simply essential to clean the house in the name of Jesus so that light and life can do their work.

PRAY

Tim and Stuart are up here to pray for you.