

Introduction:

- Generational Sunday.
- *"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and **the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified."* (Isaiah 61:2-3, ESV) Again: *"Say to those who have an anxious heart, "**Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.**"*" (Isaiah 35:4, ESV)
- What is God saving us from? Easy answer: our enemies. That is what I want to talk about today: Our enemies and Gods victory over them.
- We live in a world that has lots of interest in the paranormal (Not scientifically explainable.)
 - UFOs and Aliens
 - Ghosts and haunted houses
 - Vampires and Werewolves
 - Happy Potter/Snow White and the Wicked Witch, Hansel and Grettle
 - TV shows for children, toys for children
- I bring up all these things, that I would classify as dark, yet are so popular in our culture and in our homes. Yet, when I as a pastor talk about demons I hear:
 - That is so old fashioned.
 - What you call demons is a behavioral issue, a problem in the mind.
 - Psychology has a name for that.
 - You are scaring my children. When I talk about demons your children should have absolutely no fear in their hearts or minds because they have been taught about and have seen the authority of God in your lives as parent and grandparents. IE. the story of pastor Joshua rebuke demons.
 - Everyone say, "Devil, I rebuke you!" IE. Makyah "I put a spell on you" while waving her wand. I said it won't work on me. Why? Because I'm a christian and I love Jesus. "Well, just pretend."

I. A War Is Waged

- A. A war is being waged in the spirit realm for your life, your dream, your purpose! Our scriptures state that God comes with a vengeance and with recompense.
1. God comes with a vengeance! There is fire in His eyes for us! And against our enemies.
 2. His vengeance must be seen in light of His mercy. The testimony of God...His story...the Word of God shows us scary enemies in the Light of The God of Victory... our God!
 3. We saw last week that He comes with a vengeance to save us!

- B. What is God saving us from? Easy answer: our enemies.
1. John 10:10 Jesus tells us that the thief comes to do three things:
 - a) Kill - end you life, end your influence, end you!
 - b) steal - he comes to steal your health (spirits of affliction), steal your finances (spirit of poverty and foolishness), steal your dream (spirit of doubt and unbelief). He does not want you to own what God has planned for you!
 - c) Destroy - wreck havoc.
 - d) We see these three things in the Luke 15: with lost sheep, lost coin, lost son.
 2. If you are a christian, your enemies are God's enemies. His enemies hate you because you are His children, subjects of His Kingdom and you remind him of God. And hell is at war with the Kingdom of God. Always has been...since Satan was thrown out of heaven.
- C. *"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."* (1 Peter 2:11, ESV)
1. Spirits are waging a war against you. *"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* (Galatians 5:19-21, ESV)
 2. It is a war! They want to destroy you. And they want you to be afraid. Be afraid: of sickness, be afraid of poverty, be afraid of rejection. And they operate by making you afraid. IE. lady who manifested at the Tabernacle. "I hate you!"
 3. Jesus won that battle! Everyone say, "Devil, I rebuke you!"

II. Who Are We Fighting?

- A. We are fighting spirits in this life. *"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."* (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)
1. Each one of these enemies that have been mentioned are demonic spirits with different levels of authority. Should we be scared? NO!...unless you are not born again.
 2. They are all around us all the time. BUT...there are more for us than against us! 1/3 rd of the angels fell that leaves 2/3 with us. 2:1 favored! IE. 2 Kings 6:17 The city was surrounded but the hills were filled with the chariots of God.
 - a) Who do you have more faith in? Devil or God?
 - b) Everyone say, "Devil, I rebuke you!"
- B. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. It is against spirits who seek to destroy us, destroy our dreams, and take our lives.

1. Mark 5 the story of the demoniac. IE. We would have sent Luke Skywalker or Obie Jaun with a light saber to take care of the problem.
2. Read Mark 5:1-6 Sounds scary right??? Look at verse six: *"And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him."* (Mark 5:6, ESV) Who fell down??? Who was still standing??? Who was afraid of who??? Do you understand why it is important to let Jesus into your heart and life?
 - a) Demons are scared of Jesus!
 - b) Demons are scared of Spirit filled Christians who know who they are and whose they are!
 - c) Everyone say, "Devil, I rebuke you!"

III. How Will We Win?

- A. Fight God's way:
 1. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, ESV)
 2. Do not fight against people. Recognize the enemy (spirit) and fight him.
 3. IE. Crowd of people and feel anger, lust, depression: could very well be a spirit looking for a place to land and a person to work through.
- B. Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony.
 1. *"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."* (Revelation 12:11, ESV)
 - a) Assured of the blood of Jesus Christ
 - b) And so rested in who Jesus is that death did not scare them.
- C. With the Anointing of God (the presence of God/Holy Spirit)
 1. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* (Luke 4:18-19, ESV)
 2. *"It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil."* (Isaiah 10:27, NKJV)
 3. *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."* (Acts 10:38, ESV)
 4. I Jn 2:20, 27 You have an anointing...and this anointing abides within you.
- D. With the Word

1. John 6:63 His words are Spirit and they are Life! Life trumps death!
 2. Watch your words! *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21, ESV)
- E. Close open doors to the devil. Submit to God and resist the devil. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7, ESV) Read vs 7-11
1. Submit to God
 2. Resist the devil
 3. Draw near
 4. Cleanse your hands
 5. Humble yourselves
 6. Don't speak evil
 7. Close open doors to the devil.
 - a) Demons get entrance to our lives when we open doors up to them.
 - b) King Saul, 1 Sam 28:7 went to see a witch and opened a door to a tormenting spirit. I.e. Ouija board, fortune,
 - c) Mt 18:34 tormentors
- F. Get annoyed with demons. Paul got annoyed with this demon. *"And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour."* (Acts 16:18, ESV)
- G. Be gentle and honorable to people. Don't let demons embarrass people. Bind their activity and then help those who are down up. *"But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose."* (Mark 9:27, ESV)

Conclusion:

- *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* (Luke 4:18-19, ESV)
- It is the picture of Freedom!
- *"The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways."* (Deuteronomy 28:7, ESV)
- There is a war going on for your soul. You do not have to be scared of demons! But you do need Christ Jesus as Lord of your life!

"...And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." (Genesis 4:7, ESV)