

Introduction:

- Last Sunday we explored Gods word regarding the fire shut in one's bones. The focus was mostly on the fire. Two things we saw the fire do was judge and cleanse. Same fire for both cases, but the difference is the position of the heart of the one found in the fire.
 - If you are outside of Christ the fire falls upon you as judgement; a curse.
 - If you are inside Christ the fire falls upon you as cleansing and power; a blessing.
- We then looked at what happens when a believer goes after the fire. The fire of the Word becomes a fire in the heart. And it will burn so hot in there that you have to tell someone. That is why Jeremiah said, "Your word is like a fire...Your word is like a fire shut up in my bones!" And we closed by looking at the scriptures that speak of God's angels like a wind and his servants like fire and what happens when the two work together!
- My goal this morning is to help us with the application of the fire to our life and the circumstances we often find ourselves in, in this life. IE. Linebacker.

I. The Devil is A Destroyer

- A. He is called a thief. Watch what his work is: steal, kill, destroy. *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..."* (John 10:10, ESV) It is what he has been doing since the beginning. War is stealing, killing, destroying. Sickness is stealing, killing destroying. Poverty is stealing, killing and destroying.
- B. Accusations always separate and divide. *"...for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."* (Revelation 12:10, ESV) Accusations: destroy marriages, destroy family relationships, destroy friendships, destroy work relationship and the list goes on. Accusations never bring people together they separate people. And the media is the biggest propagator of accusations for they do not want the power of a united people to come about.
- C. At the end of the age Satan is called the destroyer. *"They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon."* (Revelation 9:11, ESV)
- D. Arrows in many places of scripture have to do with hell's work of deception and hurting people. Eph 6:16 (Shield of faith extinguishes the fiery darts/arrows of the wicked one.)
- E. His goal is to destroy the image of God in us and cause us to forget who we really are...sons of God. He wants us to feel forgotten, rejected, worthless, having no value, shamed, depressed and discouraged. That is his job for people, families, cities, nations.

II. He Begins His Work By Creating Gaps

- A. He creates openings (Gaps), doors, holes in which he and his demonic army can come and go into our lives.

1. IE. Adam and Eve sinned. It created a 'gap' through which Satan seized control over man's God given authority and made it his own. The next thing we see is Cain killing Able. But, God warned Cain: *"If you do well, will you not be accepted? 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) Don't let him in through the developing 'gap.'
2. Sin creates gaps and allows the demonic access to our lives. IE. Mt 18:21-34. *"In a fury of anger, the king turned him over to the prison guards to be tortured until all his debt was repaid."* (Matthew 18:34, TPT) Notice: tormentor now have access because of unforgiveness.
- B. Gaps are created by sin. We just saw that in Cain's life and the unforgiving person.
 1. An OT look at this topic. Ezk 22:1-18; Is 5:1-5
 2. The gap was 'widened' by: Ezk 22:25-27
 - a) False prophets
 - b) Sinful priests
 - c) Wicked princes
- C. Gap in our lives lets the enemy in. Gaps in our nation lets the enemy in. GOD WANTS THE GAPS CLOSED!
 1. *"Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel. You have not gone up into the breaches, or built up a wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in battle in the day of the Lord."* (Ezekiel 13:4-5, ESV)
 2. *"And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach (gap) before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none."* (Ezekiel 22:30, ESV)
 - a) God wanted the gap closed but there was no man to close it.
 - b) Jesus became the MAN to close the gap.
 - c) If I am in Christ and He is in me then I now possess the power and ability to be a gap closer! Not in my strength or authority, but in His.

III. The Power of The Prophetic to Close Gaps

- A. What is the prophetic? What does that mean?
 1. To prophesy means to speak by inspiration (the inspiration of God). You can only prophesy what you hear God say. Prophecy happens as a result of hearing God. *"The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?"* (Amos 3:8, ESV) Jer 20:7-9
Fire in my bones!
 2. It is the voice of God. God Himself speaking or having already spoken.
 3. His Word is prophetic because it is His voice.
 4. Personal prophecy is prophetic because it is His voice.
 5. The action(s) of God is prophetic because it is His movement.

6. What is need from us is our faith!
- B. Prophets were watchman. They possess a seeing gift. We often call them seers. So what does the watchman do?
 1. He announces! He announces the presence of kings and he announces special moves and days of God. *"Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'"* (Jeremiah 31:4-6, ESV) In this sense, he brings hope.
 2. The watchman warns—of the enemies presence and calls warriors to the wall. *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me."* (Ezekiel 3:17, ESV) Again in Ezk 33:7. The prophet carries the 'breath' of God and he brings the breath of God into the Gap!
 3. By his speaking the prophet creates a move of God. (But he must be moved by God's voice not his own.)
 - a) Often this happens in the form of prayer. The prophetic voice of the Lord is heard and people being to draw near to God.
 - b) Give God no rest! *"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth."* (Isaiah 62:6-7, ESV)
 - (1) Luke 18 Men ought always pray and not lose heart.
 - (2) Widow and the judges. She gives the judge no rest.
 - (3) Jesus in the garden says watch and pray. Mt 26:41; Mk 14:38; Mk 13:33.
- C. We fill the 'gap' with the Word and the Spirit/presence. Ezk 37
 1. In Ezk 37, Ezekiel hears the bones in the valley talking. vs 11
 - a) We are dried up.
 - b) We are without hope.
 - c) We are cut off.
 - d) This sounds like the whole world right now. Do you see the 'gap'? Do you hear the sound of those who have met the destroyer, Apollyon, the accuser?
 2. In Ezk 37, Ezekiel hears the Word of the Lord.
 - a) "Prophecy and say"...these are two different things. vs 4,9,12.
 - (1) Prophecy...be my voice. Let my Spirit fill you now with my words!
 - (2) When that has happened....SAY! In others words, speak what I command you.
 - (3) You can't hear the voice and remain silent. It has to be spoken to release

the anointing it.

3. Ezekiel moving under the unction/anointing of the Holy Spirit, by his words is creating a movement of God in the 'gap'. Let me say it this way: When Ezekiel prophesies, RESURRECTION power begins to enter the dry bones.

Conclusion:

- Prophets are like linebackers. They fill the gap when holes appear in the line.
- We must learn to speak to our problems. Mk 11:22-24 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. 24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (NKJ)*
- The fire of God shut up in your bones is the power of God waiting to be released through your words.