

Introduction:

- I want to talk about spiritual warfare this morning.
 - I believe in God and I also believe that just as He has angels to support His kingdom that there are demons that support the kingdom of darkness.
 - I believe that we all have angels that are assigned to us. I also believe that there are familiar spirits that are assigned to destroy and imprison us.
 - I believe that Jesus came to set us free and empower us to live free. The devil is a thief who has come to steal, kill and destroy.
- So this morning we are going to look at entry level spiritual warfare.
- *"Seeing Jesus, the madmen screamed out, 'What business do you have giving us a hard time? You're the Son of God! You weren't supposed to show up here yet!'"* (Matthew 8:29, The Message) also Mark 5:1-20.
- *"And behold, they cried out, 'What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?'"* (Matthew 8:29, ESV)
- *"They began screaming at him, 'Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?'"* (Matthew 8:29, NLT)
 - Let's answer that question out loud: "YES!"
 - "Yes! Jesus has come before that appointed time!"

I. Before What Time?

- A. There is an appointed time of eternal destruction of demons. Demons have a date with destiny and it is called the Lake of Fire! It was created for the devil, his demons, and those who refuse Christ.
 1. The demons know there is an appointed time for them...And Jesus is early!
 - a) Gr. pro..kirou. There is an appointed Kairos moment for the devil and his demons. And Jesus has shown up before that time. Can we celebrate that for a moment!
 - b) The demons know that a time is coming, in the future, when they will be tormented and destroyed in the Lake of Fire where death never comes to them! Jesus was the last person they expected to meet that day.
 - c) When Jesus shows up in Gardarene, He is early! Before the time of their punishment! They do not fight in hope of victory. They fight to take as many of us with them as they can. They know they are doomed and they know who defeated them. (That is to our advantage!)
 2. Demons know their end and they know it to be one of torment.
 - a) *"And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."* (Revelation 12:9, ESV)
 - b) Demons...*"and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of*

- fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* (Revelation 20:10, ESV)
- c) Lost souls...*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matthew 25:41, ESV)*
- B. Jesus has come early! Jesus has come early and He has come to wreak havoc on the Kingdoms of darkness. May devils run into Jesus today!
1. His twelve disciples cast out demons: *"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."* (Matthew 10:1, ESV)
 2. Luke 10:17 the 72 cast out demons.
 3. Believers cast out demons: *"And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;"* (Mark 16:17, ESV)
 4. In Acts 8:6 Phillip casts out demons.
 5. In Acts 16:18 Paul was annoyed by a demon and cast it out.
 6. In Acts 19:12 handkerchiefs and aprons anointed by Paul drove out demons.
- C. Why? Why did Jesus do this? Why is it important that we cast out demons?
1. To display Kingdom authority to demons and to people. *"But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."* (Matthew 12:28, ESV) He was letting them know that their reign was over and that His was beginning.
 2. To take back Kingdom property. *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36, ESV) Luke 4:18 liberty to the captives, liberty to the oppressed.
 3. To end demonic terrorizing. *"And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"* (Luke 13:16, ESV)

II. Now Is The Time!

- A. Time to what?
1. Get free. If you want authority over demons, instead of them having it over you.
 - a) Get saved! *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36, ESV)
 - b) Make Jesus Lord of your life! *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV) Not enough to have fire insurance, we want Jesus to be Lord. Lord of our lives, family, finances, sexuality, etc.
 - c) Live free! *"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) Once we get free we are to help...
2. Get others free.
 - a) Lk 4:18-19 Spirit of the Lord **has anointed me** to proclaim Good News to poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to blind, liberty to oppressed, year of Lords favor! You also have an anointing!
 - b) *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (Luke 19:10, ESV)
 - c) *"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* (John 20:21, ESV)
 - d) His mission is our mission. Get people free.
 3. Crush dark domains. John 1:5 the Light came and darkness could not diminish it.
- B. What truths do we know about demons?
1. We know that demons oppose the Kingdom of God (Luke 11:14-23)
 2. We know they seek to ensnare people and manipulate them to manifest darkness. (2 Timothy 2:26)
 3. We know that demons can ensnare people so deeply that they become possessed. (Luke 8:26-39)
 4. Unless people are born again, the devil who has the power of death, causes people to live in fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15
 5. We know there is a hierarchy of demonic powers. Eph 6:12
 6. We know that demons seek whom they may devour. *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8, ESV)

III. Get Free And Get In The Fight!

- A. Practice the presence! What does this mean?
1. Practice getting into the presence of God.
 - a) I am always in the presence of God.
 - b) But I desire to know, feel the tangible presence of God.
 2. By faith, know you are in the presence. There are no feelings, no tangible experience. I know by the Word He will never leave me or forsake me.
 3. Please note that in our text the demons scream when they see Jesus. The very presence of Jesus causes demons to scream out. We want the presence of Christ in our lives! Acts 19:13-16 *"Jesus I know, Paul I recognize, who are you?"*
 - a) The name of Jesus is not a magic word.
 - b) It is faith in the name of Jesus that sets men free. Acts 3:16 (lame man walks)
 4. The presence made devils FREAK OUT! Matthew 8:29
- B. Know your authority in Christ and use it.
1. We do not take authority over demons. We have authority over demons!

- a) We never see or hear Jesus saying, "Devil, I take authority over you." He ministered in authority.
 - b) Paul never said, "I take authority over you, devil." He ministered in authority.
 - c) We don't tell the devil "I take authority over you." We minister or operate in authority. Ie. Have you ever watched a police program or movie where the cop says to the bad guy, "You thief, I take authority over you!" No, they operate in the authority that they have been given. If you know who you are, and whose you are, and what you have been given then you operate in that authority.
2. Your first ground to take is between your ears and in your heart.
 - a) Renew your mind with the Word to think like God.
 - (1) Romans 12:1-2
 - (2) "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."" (John 8:31-32, ESV)
 - b) Media - news, social media is going night and day to control your mind, your thinking. 1 Peter 5:8 be watchful, 2 Corinthians 10:4 destroy arguments and lofty opinions.
 - (1) A lofty opinion is one that set itself up above God/truth.
 - (2) These arguments and opinions are demonic weapons of mass destruction.
 - (3) These usher people away from God and into the place of unbelief
 - (4) But they do not trump the Gospel!
 3. Jesus arrived early so that the Ecclesia could get in on the action!
 - a) The gates of hell will not prevail against Ecclesia!
 - b) Those filled the Holy Spirit, who go out in Jesus name terrorize hell with it Light, Life and Freedom!
 - c) Live Free!

Conclusion:

- It is time to invade the 'death camps' and liberate people to link up with the fifth column of the advancing Christ!
- We, the church, are the insurgency in this dark world. We are here to topple the kingdoms of darkness and to free those in bondage.
- "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons," (1 Timothy 4:1, ESV)