

The Church Today Asleep & in Bondage #8

by Milton Green

The sermon calls the church to awaken from spiritual slumber and embrace the authority given by Christ to heal and deliver through faith.

Duration: 50:01

Scripture: Mark 16:17

Topics: "Discipleship", "Spiritual Warfare"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of walking in covenant with God, facing opposition from religious leaders and even family members, and staying faithful to God's will. It highlights the power of casting out demons, healing the sick, and making disciples as a demonstration of true discipleship. The message encourages obedience to God over human expectations and the need to rejoice in persecution for the sake of Christ.

Transcript

Then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was received up to heaven, and he sat right down at the right hand throne of God, and so they went out, and what did they do? They preached the word everywhere. By the Lord what? Number one, he worked with them. Number two, he confirmed the word that he preached.

By what? The signs that followed. Now let me ask you something. If I can read, right here in 19, it says he went to be at the right hand throne of God.

Isn't that right? Well then, if I read the next verse, it said that he worked with them, he confirmed the word, and the signs followed, right? From the right hand throne of God, he did that. That's what your Bible says. Where is he now? He can't do it if he won't lay hands on the sick, and walk in unbelief, then can he? See, this is where he said, I'm going to work it from the right hand throne of God until the end of the age.

Have you already read that? But see, he's not going to do it while folks are over here. You have to move over here, to move God. You line up with God, but God don't change.

We're not going to justify being there. Alright, that's deception over there. That's what that is.

Now, I want you to turn back with me, please, to Mark 6. To Mark 6. Now, can you believe that Jesus could not do... All things are created through Jesus, and his hands were tied for doing miracles because of

people. Do you know what tied his hands? It's unbelief. People can't believe.

Do you know that God can't do anything in unbelief? That's not covenant. That's covenant with the devil. Unbelief is covenant with Satan.

Do you understand that? It's not just unbelieving. That's agreeing with Satan. Alright, now, Mark 6, verse 5. And he could do no miracle there except he what? Jesus laid his hands on people.

Doesn't it seem like it just might be alright to lay your hands on people if Jesus did it? Doesn't it just sound like they just might be something to it? It just might be alright. Well, he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them, but he couldn't do any miracle because why? He wondered at their what? Now, we've already looked in... Let's just watch him send out the disciples here. We saw it in Matthew, in verse 7, here.

And he summoned the twelve, began to send them out in pairs, and he was giving them authority over the what? Over the demons. Now, I want you to look at me, and I want to explain something to you. You know, when I told you that I was in Graceland Baptist Church, in the greater, the largest Southern Baptist Church in the Louisville area, and in the Southern Baptist Church in Indiana, and when I was there, I went up there to witness, and the Lord propelled me into a situation where I was casting demons out of a church member.

And then later on, after this incident happened, I got with this pastor, and Jim Hilton was there, and some others, and I was sharing about healing, what the Lord had showed me about healing. And I showed this second verse, which I'm going to, the second one I'm going to look at here in just a minute. I'm going to read one, and then the second one, I'm going to show it to you.

I'll tell you what this pastor said. He said, now listen to what I'm fixing to tell you. He said, I taught the Book of Mark in seminary, and I have never seen that scripture before in my life.

You know why? He had already received a lie, and then when you receive a lie, you get a stronghold that blocks the part of the word out where you have it. Now, I'm not going to get into details because that's some time. The Lord just has to show you that.

I'm not going to try to explain that. But when you receive a lie, it gets a stronghold on that part, but he's blind to it. He couldn't see it.

Now, let me, the second verse I'm going to read is this. We're going to start in verse 12. And they, these 12 disciples, they went out and preached that people should what? Are you seeing them getting them to deal with sin first? Is that what they're getting them to deal with first? What's the second thing to get them to deal with sin? And they were casting out many demons, and they were what else? They were what? Anointing with oil.

The 12 disciples was anointing with oil, and many sick people, and many sick people, and they were healing them. Now, does it not seem like it just might be all right? He taught the book of Mark in seminary, and never even saw that scripture right there. Does it seem like it just might be all right to anoint with oil, if the 12 disciples did it? Now, let me ask you something.

You already see clearly that he's going to be healing to the end of the age. Isn't that right? Did he not say, when you get over to Mark, so when something gets too obvious, you've got to, it just doesn't seem

supposed to be in the Bible. But over in Mark 16, that he said, I'll be with you always.

I'll work with you. I'll confirm the word, and signs follow that they shall be healed. Well, I'll tell you how these things work.

They work with us being in covenant. You're not really in covenant when you're over here in Egypt in agreement with Satan. You move over and walk in covenant, and these things become a reality.

You're not unevenly yoked with Satan. You're not making covenant with Satan. Then the Lord can work through you.

Did we see how Jesus got power? How did Jesus get power? He come to power, and he could pray for the sick because he went through the temptations of the lust of flesh, the lust of the eyes, the boastful pride of life, and then he walked in the church house, and he said, The Spirit of God's on me. I come here to heal some folks and set the captives free. Is that plain? Is that what he said? And then he proceeded to do it, didn't he? Well, then how are you going to get the power of God on your life? Well, you're going to have to get it on the same way.

That's the reason we hadn't seen too much of it because we've been trying to get the cartons in there on it, see. Isn't that right? And it just won't work. So you don't have the power of God in your life like that.

Now, they always have a doctor. Wasn't it a wonderful thing that Paul had a doctor with him just in case God couldn't come through? Turn to Luke 9. Can't you just see him following? Saw Paul around when he healed everybody on the island and had a rag out to heal and everything. It moved, and they'd have him in a satchel in case the rag didn't work or... Huh? Boy, that's some good, smart logic.

Well, Dr. Luke had something to say here in chapter 9, verse 1. And he called the twelve together and he gave them... We already read Matthew and Mark. Now, we're looking at Luke. He called the twelve together and gave them what? Well, I'm telling you, that power... Everybody's getting power.

It heals for sick folks, isn't it? You know, I hadn't even seen that until right then. Every time I'd go through it, he said, You're giving more than I'll be giving unto you. Now, they got the power, didn't they? Glory be to God.

I could almost jump over this thing right here just so the Lord shows me something like that. If the Lord ever shows you something and you put it on a piece of paper and want to give it to me, I'll tell you what, I'll read it before I go to bed tonight. Or any time the Lord shows you some things that might help me.

That's the most exciting thing in the world, to get to see something in God's Word. Now, look at that. Have they got the power? The only way they got the power is to overcome like Jesus overcame.

You know, we've always seen that Paul had the power. Didn't we look at that? They got the power. You go pray for folks when you got the power.

And he called the twelve together and he gave them power and what? And authority, praise the Lord, over all, all, all the demons, every one of them, and to heal diseases. There's a threefold gospel, is that right? And he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and what else? Perform healing. See, they proclaimed the kingdom, there he goes to tell the people the truth.

Tell them that the powers of darkness have got you, you're in deception, and you've got smoke on you. And the next thing, you're full of demons, you need to cast these demons out of you, and these diseases, if you've got them, you don't find out about diseases until they've got you. And so, now can you see Luke saying this and then carrying his satchel around in case God didn't come through? Isn't it interesting where all those little pictures come from? All right, then, chapter 10, please.

Chapter 10 in Luke 10. Praise your name, Lord Jesus. Oh, I'm telling you.

Luke 10, verse 1. And after this, the Lord appointed what? Seventy others. Now, let me just tell you what these are. These are 70 brand-new baby disciples.

You know another thing, just call them babes. First time out, isn't that true? They're baby disciples. All right, let's go ahead.

The Lord appointed 70 disciples. He sent them to and to ahead, to every city and place where he himself was going to come. And then he told them, verse 3, Go your way, behold, I send you out as what? Lambs in the midst of what? Wolves.

Now, look at me. Do you know that a lamb... Do you know what God compared us with? Do you know a lamb is one of the most dumbest animals there is? You know, I've heard of a person who was in a slaughterhouse, you know, where they slaughtered the lambs and things, and I heard quite a story about that one time, about how that just got to a man, because, see, he was the one that slit their throats. And do you know something? That a lamb with this beautiful eyes would just look at you, and you can slit its throat.

It'll never make a sound, and it'll just keep looking at you with those beautiful, beautiful eyes until it drops and dies. Now, you do that to a hog, and you can hear him in Orlando. But go your way, behold, I send you as a lamb in the midst of what? Now, you begin to know who these beasts are, the beasts of the field, these wolves.

You know, they're really something, aren't they? They sure are. That's them. All right, now, he said, verse 8, Whatever city you enter in, they receive you, eat what is set before you, and heal those who are in it who are sick, and say to them, The kingdom of God is come near you.

It sounds like all disciples are out in the healing business, doesn't it? If you're a disciple, you're out in the healing business. This thing, these specialists and everything, I'm telling you, the Lord works through all of us. You understand that? Okay.

He said to heal those in the sick, and said, Well, Lord, Lord, I know that when I go, if I do what you say, Lord, there'll be a lot of people that'll get angry, and they'll say unkind words. They'll tell me I see a demon behind every bush. They'll say I've gone off the deep end, or charismatic or something, and they'll say unkind words to me.

And there's some, they just won't believe it, Lord. He said, Well, I've got something else to say to you about that. Here's something for those that won't believe it.

Verse 10. Whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out in the streets and say, Even the dust of your city which slings to our feet, we walk up in protest against you. Yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.

And you know how the kingdom of God came near them? Because the kingdom of God is in the disciples, and they didn't receive it. The kingdom of God is the gospel to heal the sick and cast out demons, and set the people free. That's the reason the Lord said, Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

I want to come in, and I want to set these people free, shepherd. And said, Well, they're not quite ready about this demon, besides we've got a pretty good program already lined up. But I'm bringing them along.

I'm bringing them along, Lord. I'm bringing them along. I'm going to get them to a place.

I'll bring them along. And Jesus just keeps knocking, and he's wanting to set the people free. He's wanting to heal the sick.

And a shepherd is standing in the door. He said, I also got something else to say, disciples, for someone that does not want to receive. Verse 16.

He said, Disciples, you're in covenant with me. So in 16, the one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, Jesus, and he who rejects me rejects the one who sent me. So, disciple, baby disciple, brand new baby disciple, when they reject you, see, you're in covenant with God Almighty.

So when they reject you, they reject God. Is that what your Bible says right there? They reject God. Now, here's what I want you to do.

I want you to let me be Jesus, and I want you to be the 70 disciples, and the rest of what I'm going to share with you, as a matter of fact, I want to move right down here where you can see me. Now, I'm going to be Jesus, and you're going to be the 70 disciples, and you're going to read when I read. See, when Jesus kind of in charge of things, wasn't he? And when I say stop, you're going to look.

And I'm going to go on to the next chapter. We're going to look together, and I want to point something out to you. Now, in verse 17, and here are these brand new baby disciples.

They're babes. The 70 return with joy. See, they're all tore up, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name.

Now, that's kind of exciting. They're going out to heal the sick, and now the whole subject now begins to talk about demons right here. And he said, The demons are subject in your name, Lord.

Now, let's see what the Lord said back to them. He's talking about demons. The whole subject.

And he said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Jesus said there, Behold, baby disciples, I have given you authority, and now your disciples out there, you have the same thing. You know, this makes a demon jump all to pieces when you tell him this verse here.

I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all, all, all, all, all, all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hinder you. But, baby disciples, now listen to me. This whole subject's about demons.

Nevertheless, do not rejoice that these demons are subject to you. You had better not just get to comping on that or comping over here in tongues or comping in gifts or comping in healing or comping in anything else. Baby disciples, don't rejoice these demons are subject to you.

You better rejoice in me. But rejoice that your name's recorded in heaven. You better not take your eyes off of me because I am the deliverer.

I am the healer. I am the one that works for you. The whole subject's about demons.

Look at me. Is it? There's a whole subject there talking about it. Well, I see someone's not looking.

Now, when you get to be a teacher, we'll do it your way. All right, now. Really.

Jesus turned about like this. Can you see me? Turned about like this. Because, see, he changed, see.

There's the same disciples, and he began right then talking to the Father. And watch what he said to him. Look at your Bibles.

Verse 21. That one next day, it was right to him because it says at that very time he rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit and said, I praise thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou did what? The whole subject's about casting out the demon. Did he hide these things from who? Oh, he hid it from wise and intelligent and did reveal it to who? Brand-new baby disciples.

Yes, Father, for thus it well-pleasing in thy sight. Will you please look at me now? In one verse, you find out that Jesus rejoices greatly and it's well-pleasing to the Father that brand-new baby disciples learn and know about demons and casting them out and everything and the wise and intelligent... Can you hear me? The wise and intelligent and the people that follow after the wise and intelligent will never, ever see it and you can't make them see it. They'll never, never see it.

And that's why simple things are hidden. And you know why they'll never see it? You'll see why in the next verse. He said, verse 22, All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows who the Son is except the Father and who the Father is except the Son and to anyone... Now watch this. Who the Son, that's Jesus, wills to what? Look at me. The only ones that know is who the Son wills to reveal.

Reveal is called revelation. It's not intellection. Now you're the 70 disciples and I'm Jesus.

After he said these things to the Father, he talked to him a couple of verses and then, now you're watching me, he turned back like this. You know how I know? It says so right there. And turning to the disciples, you see that? He said privately, Now look at me.

Look at me. If I have something privately here to say to Peter, Lord, I'll just slip over there and it's private. It's nobody else's business because I'll share it with Peter and I'll talk to Peter and I'll tell him what it is because it's private.

He had something to say privately to the disciples, didn't he? That means it's not for everybody else. Are you disciples? Well, get in on it right here. Look what he says.

Because nothing like this has ever happened before. You understand? Back through this Bible, these kind of things wasn't happening. They were pretty important folks back through there, but they wasn't seeing anything like this.

Now look what he told them. And turning to the disciples, he said privately, and this is just for you. Blessed are your eyes, baby disciples, which see the things that you see.

A lot of smart folks not seeing this. And 24, For I say to you that many prophets and kings, all the way back through there, wish to see the things which you see and did not see them and to hear the things which you hear and did not hear them. And you know something? You couldn't see and you couldn't hear if it was not for the grace and divine appointment for God for you to see.

That's grace. That's grace. And I'll tell you what else it is.

It's covenant. You don't never drive down the road and figure out anything about God. If it ever comes to you, you might as well stop and thank Jesus because he just showed it to you.

You'll never ever see it. And now I'll tell you, the next thing you want to do, if you want to test this out on some wise and intelligent person tomorrow and just waste your time, you just corner him and try to tell him about what you just saw here tonight. And you just find out how much he's going to see.

Well, here we go. We, uh, you know, we kind of get things kind of turned around, Deuteronomy 8 at 28. Didn't we see a while ago that sickness is called a curse? Let me stand over here to do this.

I think I can do it better from over here. Because we can kind of relate to over here a lot better than we can to over there, I believe. I think you can hear me better over here.

Deuteronomy 8 at 28 caused sickness a curse, didn't it? Well, we call it a blessing. The Bible says, Be anointed with oil and you will be restored. We say God's quit, although it's not the end of the age yet, right? God's quit this, so we pray that everybody just die a couple, right? God says lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

Isn't that what we read? Over here they say, church, they said, that's not supposed to be in the Bible. It's God's will for people to be sick. It's a blessing.

God doesn't want to heal everybody. Got to stay here. Got to fight to stay here.

Stubborn, stiff-necked, stay here. So then we trust doctors and medication. Then our new theology is that God heals through doctors.

Just forget the word. So doctors become God. Have you ever noticed what, now see, I've got many, many doctor friends.

And so we're not talking about, we're talking about spiritual things, right? Any doctors get acquainted with this, they've got a problem. We're talking about spiritual healing. See, they just deal with symptoms.

We're talking about the source here. Amen? So then when we get through with all this, you know what that's called? Speculation. Speculation.

And when you get through with all this speculation, same thing that happens to somebody's mind when you go to witness to them, when you get through with it, then you've got theology and everything developed that God can't do anything. And that's the way it is today, that God can't do anything. I think it's important if just real quickly that we look at Acts and just say, you know that Jesus gave all the instruction to those disciples, didn't he, about the church, about being disciples? Let's see what they did.

See if it's changed any today. In Acts 1. Acts 1. Acts 1. And we're going to watch. Did we watch in the Gospels there where he ascended and went into heaven? He had some things to say.

Let's go ahead and watch it and look at it here in Acts 1. Verse 9, And after he had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky, while he was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside him and said, They also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in just the same way as you watched him go into heaven. Excuse me.

All right, now look in Acts 3, please. It talks about their fellowship there in 2. And then we see, we already found it, we already seen they got the power on them in Luke 9. Have they got the power and the Spirit on them, right? In other words, they passed the test. You don't see Peter denying him three times anymore.

All right. Verse 1, Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer, and a certain man, who had been what? Lame from his mother's womb, he had been lame from birth, was being carried along whom he used to set down every day at the gate of the temple, which is called Beautiful, in order to beg, he's a beggar, of those who were in the temple. And when he saw Peter and John about to go in the temple, he began asking to receive alms.

And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, Look at us. And he began to give him his attention and expect to receive something from them. But Peter said, I do not possess silver and gold.

I'm broke today. But what I do have I give to you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Whoa! And he seized him by the right hand.

He raised him up and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood upright. He began to walk.

And he entered the temple with them. He was walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

I want to ask you something. Is that good? Well, they put him in jail for it. Chapter 4. Chapter 4, verse 9. If we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, and that's what's happened, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you.

Now, see, they didn't double-talk and they wasn't out to please cartons. I want you to know that they said what God said. They knew something.

We need to know what they knew. Let me tell you what they knew, covenant. I don't know where you've seen a man take everything that they owned and throw it out there to apostles or feasts so they'd be plenty for all.

Why? Because they knew everything they had. They knew what covenant was. Now, that's where the Lord is bringing us to.

Let it be known to all of you and all the people Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth... In other words, that's how they... Look on down in 13. They told him how he got healed. Isn't that something? What do you mean coming and healing our beggar in front of our church house? Crippled beggars.

We like to have crippled beggars in front of our church. We'll put you in jail. Verse 13.

Now they observed the confidence of Peter and John and he understood that they were uneducated and untrained men. They were marveling and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus and seeing the man who'd been healed standing with them. They had nothing to say in reply but when he ordered them to go aside out of the council they began to confer with one another saying, Now what are we going to do with these men for the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them as a parent to all who live in Jerusalem and we cannot deny it.

But in order that, verse 17, that it may not what? Well, we got to stop this sort of thing. We can't let this kind of thing spread. These beggars being crippled people being restored.

But in order... Who's controlling them? You better believe it. But in order that it may not spread any further among the people let us warn them to speak no more in this man's name. Turn to chapter 4. I mean chapter 5, I meant to say.

Chapter 5. Now listen. What we need to see if they had any problems obeying the word, right? Did it seem like they had a few? But you know what happens when anybody comes against you and you're obeying the word you know they're fighting God. You want me to tell you something? That nothing's going to happen to you until God gets ready for it too.

Now that's covenant. All right, now chapter 5, verse 12. And at the hand of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people and they were all with what? One accords in Solomon's portico.

But here, hey, don't you reckon that everybody just wanted to get around all these people being set free and crippled and things like that and healed and casting these demons out and getting the people free? Oh, I'm glad people wanted to be around them back then. But in verse 13, but none of the rest dared to what? They didn't want to be around that healing and deliverance, did they? Well, I'm sure I'm glad that changed, aren't you? Sure, I'm sure glad that changed, you know, about doing the work of God and setting people free and heal them and everything that people wanted to, wants to be around what God's doing. Don't you understand something? All signs and wonders are against, these type of, dealing with demons and sickness is against Satan.

And also I want to tell you right now, if you're not doing signs and wonders, the curse in Deuteronomy 28 says you'll become a sign and wonder. They'll do one on you. That's right.

Now, verse 16, and all the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together. They were bringing people who were sick or afflicted with what? Looks like they were sick and afflicted with demons, huh? And they were. Most of them were being healed? All being healed.

But here in verse 17, a high preacher rose up Please, Mark, rose up. He don't know what's got a hold of him. This high preacher rose up along with all the associates, that is the sect of Sadducee.

You know, they were Sadducee. And they were filled with jealousy. Wonder who that is.

Wonder how jealousy got in there. You know who they're listening to, don't you? That's what made them so sad. And they laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

Isn't that something? But an angel of the Lord, do you believe there's any angels still around? I mean, brother, I won't tell you what they are. But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates to the prison and talking to them, taking them out, he said, Now, are you ready? You got your big pencil ready? Here we go. He told the disciples, Go your way in what? Stand and speak to the people in the church the whole message of this life.

Is that what your Bible says? Is that to speak the whole council? I mean, you say what God says. Is that plain? All right, then. And then we see in 21, upon hearing this, they just entered, they just took off and went right back to the temple there.

They just got in there at daybreak and began to teach. And then, in verse 22, then officers came and did not find him in the prison. See, they're back over there teaching again.

And they returned and reported back and saying, We found a prison house door locked obscurely, but they wasn't in there. And 24, now when the captain and the temple guard and a chief priest heard these words, they were perplexed and you can't blame them. And then 25, but someone came and reported to him, Here they are.

Boy, can't you just see them? Now, I'd like to watch this. Behold, the men whom you put in the jail they're standing back in the church and teaching the people. He's up before the whole bunch.

So the captain and the officers, they proceeded over there to bring them back. And then they brought them and they stood before, stood them before the council in verse 27 and the high priest questioned them. Now, I think he, I can just see this fellow right here.

He's one of those little old, fast talking, little feminine type boys. You can just hear him there. 28, he says, he's real fast talking.

He said, We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching this name. He's real weak now, see. And behold, you filled Jerusalem with your teaching and then said, attend to bring this man's blood upon us.

But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men. Is that plain? Now, what are you going to do with somebody like that, folks? Hmm? Well, let me just go ahead and show you what kind of congregation. Well, I want more in chapter 5. Let's, here's what they decide to do in verse 38, 538.

So in the present case, I say to you, let's stay away from these men. It's about time. And let them along for if this plan or action should be of men, it'll be overthrown.

Now, do you think these people might know more about church than about anyone you know of? They had to persevere and endure and walk in covenant, didn't they? And they couldn't be, they couldn't be stopped. They absolutely couldn't be stopped. I say to you, stay away from these men and let them along for if this plan or action should be of men, it'll be overthrown.

But if it's of God, you're not gonna be able to overthrow them or else you may be even found fighting against God. And verse 41, so they went on their way from the presence of the council, rejoiced and they'd been considered worthy to suffer shame for his name. And every day in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching, they kept on right on preaching Jesus is Christ and we see in, check next chapter 6, we see in verse 2 that the 12 summoned, they had a congregation of disciples.

They didn't have a congregation of joiners, they had a congregation of disciples. And we look down in verse 7 and the word of God it just kept on spreading. There's no stopping it.

And the number of disciples, they're just making disciples everywhere they went. The number of disciples just continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem and a great many of the preachers were being saved. Is that what it says? The priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

And if I can find that verse over here, I think it's in about chapter 9. Just rush over just a little bit there. There's a couple of laymen there that just kind of got turned loose called Phillip and Stephen and they start doing the same thing too. But in chapter 9 verse 31, So the church, now how many, how many, does this just say one church, does this say church or churches? It says church.

Now I want you just to mark the church right there. The church throughout all Judea. Oh, the church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria.

You've got three places and you've got one church. Is that right? Okay. Isn't that interesting? Now let me watch what's happened to them.

They enjoyed peace. Boy, I'm telling you what. They were being built up.

They were going on. They were in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit just continued to increase because folks, they were walking in the covenant. And real quickly in one place, and Mark, I want you to look with me in Mark 3 just to show you that there might be a few words when you start obeying the Word of God.

If the powers of darkness control the whole world, you're not going to get, you don't think they're going to roar a little bit at you or if some of that world gets in the church, they're going to roar too and the Word's going to separate them, right? Amen. Does that change God? You haven't shed blood or been put in jail yet, have you? All right. In chapter 3, here Jesus, this is the beginning of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's see if he had any problem with any of those religious folks or his family or anything. And we know that there that he cast out demons. In verse 11, when the unclean spirits beheld him, they fall down.

He started casting out demons and then in verse 14, he appointed 12 that they might be with him and you know, he's going to multiply the ministry and send them on and send them out. What? To preach and tell people what the truth is and to have authority to what? To cast out the demons and the King James, I think, tells you that to heal the sick. All right, now there's all their names but I want you to watch what happened to him there in verse 20.

And he came home which you see in the margin, that's his home territory and the multitude gathered together to such extent they couldn't even eat a meal. And look here in 22, they always show up. Here's the religious folks and the scribes who came down to Jerusalem saying he's possessed, Beelzebub and he cast out the demons by the ruler of demons.

You know what they're saying? Answer the devil. Aren't you glad it's not that way today? Boy, things have just changed so much, haven't they? And he called them to himself and began to speak to them in parables. How can Satan cast out Satan if his kingdom is divided against himself? That kingdom cannot stand.

He's talking to the religious folks. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. If Satan's risen up against himself dividing, he cannot stand but he's finished.

No one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man. You can't talk about it or think about it. You've got to do it.

And then he'll plunder his house. Truly I say to you all sins you have made forgiven the sons of men whatever blasphemy they utter but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of eternal sin because they were saying what? He has a name. Now all the religious folks are on him.

Now let's look back over in 21. Back up to verse 21. And when he's what? Have you looked in your margin as his mother and his brothers as his kinsmen now his own people heard of this all this demon stuff he's brought they went out to what? Oh take custody of him.

Now he's going to take custody of Jesus after healing and demons. And so he's going to take custody of him for they were saying what? As long as he's saying I just got a new report on me this week that someone said I was insane. Of course I'm not going to receive that.

I've been called everything from a homosexual to insane. And I watch people free and I see them walk with Jesus. And it gets to the point where I just you know I hurt for them.

And you know honest good I stand here right before nothing rises up in me at all. I just hurt so much for people. Boy I wish they could know what the Lord had shown me in his grace.

Oh I wish they knew. I wish they knew. I'm telling you I used to you know before the grace of God.

But isn't that something? See has he said Jesus lost his mind? Say let's go take custody. His own family said that. Didn't he? Is it alright if disciples and everything and Jesus go through these kind of things that you might go through a little? Do you think you're going to or do you want to keep your carton secure? Make your carton look good with pride and build a name for yourself? Or do you want to make a name for Jesus or some church or something? So you choose.

You're tested. You understand this is a good test around this world isn't it? Alright now they said his family his mother and his brothers said let's go take custody of him and say he's crazy he's lost his senses. And so verse 31 his mother and his brothers arrived and they were what? Where were they standing? Oh they stood outside.

That's a good place if you're going to take custody of somebody. Get them outside and get them. So they were standing outside and they sent word to him and called him and a multitude were sitting around him and they said to him behold your mother and your brothers they're outside looking for you now look at me.

Do you believe that Jesus knew what they wanted out there? Now here he's involved in spiritual things with a spiritual family and there are the flesh families out there trying to take custody of him and get away from the spiritual. Wonder where his family really is. I can't hear you.

I think he's kind of more interested in spiritual. Well I'd be really interested to see what he said there in any way. Verse 33 and he said you know there's mother and your brothers out there looking for you and they're trying to frame you what they wanted.

Verse 33 and answering them he said who are my mother and my brothers? And then and looking around those were sitting around him. He pointed to his disciples before. His disciples were the ones that were all around him and he pointed at them and he said behold my mother and my brothers.

Here's my mother and brothers right in here. Not flesh it wants to get me away from the word of God and spiritual things verse 35 you got your big pencil ready. You're going to find out who brothers and sisters and a family of Jesus is for whoever what.

Does that sound like somebody that walking in covenant? Well he said whoever does the will of God, whoever is in covenant with me is the one that's my brother and my sister and my mother. Is that plain? So let me just tell you what he did to me and what he's done for you. He's lifted me up out of the pit of destruction.

Out of the mirey clay. And he's put her feet up on a rock making her footsteps firm. He's put a new song in her mouth, a song of praise to her God.

Now many have seen fear and trust in the Lord and blessed is a man whose trust is the Lord and has not turned to proud folks. Many oh Lord my God of the wonders that thou hast done and thy thoughts are toward us there's none to compare with thee. And my ears has opened up and then I said behold Lord I come to thee in the scroll of the book it is written to me.

I delight to do thy will oh my God. Thy law is written within my heart. I've declared the glad tidings of thy righteousness to the great congregation.

Behold I have not restrained my lips. Oh God thou knowest. I have not concealed thy righteousness within my heart.

I've spoken of thy faithfulness and thy salvation. I've also not concealed thy truth. I've not concealed thy truth.

I've not concealed thy truth and thy loving kindness from the great congregation. Now let those who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in him. And let those who enjoy thy salvation say let the Lord be magnified for thou art our help and our deliverer.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me. The Lord is on me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive and freedom to the prisoners, to proclaim the fable year of our Lord, the day of vengeance of our God.

We do rejoice greatly in our Lord. Our soul exults in our God. He's clothed us with the armies of salvation.

He's wrapped us with the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom who decks himself with a garland and a bride who adorns herself with her jewels. He keeps us from stumbling. He makes us stand in the glory of his presence, holy, blameless, beyond reproach, with great joy.

The only wise God is my Savior, who is Jesus Christ, my Lord. To him be glory and majesty, dominion and authority before all time, now and forever. We fight the good fight of the faith.

We fight the good fight of faith. We fight the good fight of faith. We lay hold of the eternal life to which we call, and we make good confessions before many witnesses.

We make our bodies a living sacrifice, which is just holy and acceptable unto God, which is a reasonable service of worship. We no longer conform to this world. We no longer worship the world.

walk, talk, and act like this world anymore, because we are transformed by the renewing of our mind that will not only know, but prove what is the good and perfect and acceptable will of God. Boy, you don't know how much I enjoy being with you. I just feel the love of Jesus in you.

I'm telling you what, I love you so much. Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much.

Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much.

Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much.

Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much.

Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you Oh, I praise you so much.

so much. Oh, I praise you Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much.

Oh, I praise you so much. Oh, I praise you so much. a praise to him, you want to? Would you stand up, please? Could I ask you, please, could I ask you, please, let's close your eyes, just close your eyes, and just real quietly, before the Lord, folks.

Now I want you just in your heart right now to have a vision of Jesus. You're having a vision of Jesus. Now I want to tell you what he's called you into, liberty and freedom, brother and sister.

He's called you into liberty and freedom. Now, is he worthy? Is he worthy? Let's just sing, you're a Lord, and just love him and praise him. You are Lord, you are Lord, you have risen from the dead, and you are Lord, every knee shall bow, every tongue that you begin, we give you all the, we give you all the, I speak blessings, peace, grace, love, healing the limits of you, in Jesus' name.

Will you hug one another, please? You'll know them because they love one another. Amen. Praise the Lord.

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