

KINGDOM COME - AUTHORITY

Text: Acts 13:4-13

Acts 13:4-13 NIV

'[Barnabas and Saul], sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.'

Prayer

- *When I was a teenager (authority)*

- Right now there is a battle taking place. There is a battle for peoples' attention; peoples affections; people's souls.
- **And there is a battle for authority in people's lives.**
- Not necessarily physically speaking, but spiritual authority.
 - Who is actually in charge? Your world.
 - What authority do WE have, if any? And how should we use it?
- **The Bible calls Satan the "prince of the power of the air".**
- **The implication is that HE has some authority. But how much? And how does he use it?**
- **Jesus is KING, but His Kingdom is not yet fully manifest on Earth. So how much authority does HE have? And how does HE use?**
- **And what does all of this mean for US?**
- What we see in **Acts 13** is an example of how all this plays out with God's of people, and it affects the world around.

- 1. THE WAR IS REAL
- 2. JESUS WON THE WAR
- 3. WE ARE WITH JESUS

- 1. THE WAR IS REAL
- Paul and Barnabas are sent out by the Holy Spirit, to preach the word of God, and to do the work of God, and what happens?
- They are immediately met with opposition, in the form of a sorcerer who Paul calls a “child of the devil”.
- **First of all we need to recognize that there is a spiritual battle taking place, all around us.**
- Eph. 6 — We Do not wrestle against flesh and blood. But against principalities and powers. Against **spiritual** forces of wickedness in the heavenly realms.
- What often SEEMS to be nothing more than a normal struggle between people or just some lame situation, may actually be a situation that is being influenced by demonic forces, as it was here with Paul and Barnabas.
- That’s not to say that every time something bad happens, it’s devil.
- At the same time, we need to know that the war is real, and there are real players in the war.
 - This man here in Acts 13, was being influenced by demons and was coming against the work and people of God.
- We need to know that not only are Satan and his cohorts REAL, but that they oppose the work and people of God.
- “But Dom, I don’t understand. Isn’t Jesus all powerful? Why can Satan how can Satan oppose the things of Jesus?”
- Well, you know how my parents delegated some authority to me, as teenager?
- In the same way, God has also delegated some authority — some to human beings, and and some to angels.
- Just like I had a choice for how I would use the authority my parents delegated to me, we all have a choice how we’ll use the authority God has given us.
- It’s the same with angles.
- The devil was an angel named “Lucifer”, with high position and high delegated authority.
- But he, and other angels, MISUSED that authority to rebel against God, and in turn were cast out of heaven, out of the presence of God.
- But when they were cast out of heaven, their delegated authority remained intact.
 - “god of this world” (1 Cor. 4)
 - The Bible is clear that Satan DOES have some power and some authority.
- And he will use every bit of it to come against US!
- The battle is not between God and Satan. Satan can’t actually get to God.

- And so, He's try to get to those who God loves most — His children.
- **This is true ALWAYS, but ESPECIALLY when we get on mission.**
- **We need to recognize that there is a spiritual battle taking place, all around us, PERIOD. But that battle INTENSIFIES the moment that we begin to say “yes” to God.**
- We've been talking a lot about the **beautiful** distinctions of what it looks like for the Kingdom of God to come in our lives, but we would be liars if we didn't **ALSO acknowledge that any time the kingdom of GOD advances, the kingdom of darkness opposes.**
- Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the Spirit of God to DO THE WORK OF GOD, and what happened?
- They are met with opposition.
- And isn't this how it is?
- *People who are not engaged experience little spiritual push back. When they get on fire, attack comes.*
- **expound**
- *Soldier sitting on sidelines building sandcastles is not a threat.*
- *When he gets marching orders and gets on front line, he becomes threat.*
- Paul and Barnabas got their marching orders, and then they were sent out by the Holy Spirit to preach the word of God, and to do the work of God, and they became a threat AND A TARGET.
- **There is ALWAYS a spiritual battle going on, but you should EXPECT that battle INTENSIFY the moment that you say “yes” to God.**
- Maybe you have recently said, “yes” to something that you believed God wanted you to do, now you're experiencing some opposition that seems like spiritual attack.
- Maybe that opposition is actually assurance that you're on the right path.
- “Um... Dom, this doesn't make me want to say ‘yes’ to God. Honestly dude, making the sand castle by the river kind of sounds nice. I don't know if I want to go to war.”
- **But friends, the war should not scare us or intimate us.**
- **Because, while the war IS real...**

2. JESUS WON THE WAR

- Did you notice how Paul and Barnabas were not scared, surprised, or intimidated by this sorcerer?
- Why?
- This sorcerer DID have some authority. The demons influencing him had some authority.

- But Paul and Barnabas knew that there was an authority above that authority.

Ephesians 1:20-21 “[God] exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

- **Jesus has ALL authority.**
- And if he has all the authority, then that means that no one else does.
- **ALL things are subject to him, EVEN the most POWERFUL things in the universe, as we just read in Eph. 1**
- **Satan does have SOME power. But he is not ALL powerful.**
 - In **Job 1** we see that Satan came to God and had to ASK Him **for permission** to bring devastation against Job. And God ALLOWED IT, but LIMITED how far Satan could go.
 - In **Luke 22**, Satan **ASKED** Jesus if he could sift Peter like wheat.
 - In **Mark 5**, the demons inside the tormented man **BEGGED** Jesus to not send them into the abyss, but to ALLOW them to go into the pigs.
- **The devil does have SOME power, but only that which has been given to him. He is a created being.**
- **This is not a battle of GOOD God v. EVIL God and we'll see who wins.**
- **There is only ONE GOD. And He ALREADY WON. JESUS has all of the authority.**
- **That means that Jesus is not TRYING to get the victory. He already has victory. The work is finished.**
- **I love how it says that Jesus has been SEATED at the right hand of the Father.**
- You know why He's sitting down?
- **It's not because He's tired. It's because He's finished.**
- The work is DONE. The victory is won.
- **Jesus does not fight FOR the victory. He fights FROM the victory.**
- **He already has ALL of authority.**
- **Gospels...**
 - Jesus commands impure spirits to come out of people and they obey Him.
 - Jesus commands dead people to rise and they rise.
 - He commands the sick to be healed and they are. Blind people to see and they do.
 - He even commands storms to stop and they listen.
- **That's AUTHORITY!**
- **But it's not just that...**
- Because if Jesus JUST uses his authority to heal people, and cast out demons, and calm storms, and then just goes back to heaven, so what??? What good is that?
- His authority is just here and then it's gone. It's only brings temporal results.
- Because another disease will come. More demons will show up. More storms will come.

- All of that deliverance is temporary.
- **We don't need temporary deliverance. We need eternal deliverance.**
- **We don't need the temporary storms of life to be calmed. We need the eternal tornado of the soul to be calmed.**
- It means NOTHING if Jesus uses his authority to bring temporary relief to our lives, but leaves us eternally dead in our sins and transgressions.
- **But He NOT left us eternally dead in our sins and transgressions.**
- **Ephesians 2:1,4** “you were dead in your transgressions and sins... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us **alive** in Christ...”
- Jesus didn't just come to heal the physically sick, and raise the physically dead.
- Jesus ultimately came to heal our and raise the SPIRITUALLY sick and dead.
- **And how did He do it? By giving up His OWN life.**
- **And THAT was actually the greatest demonstration of His power and authority.**
- **Everyone gets to choose how they use their authority right?**
- Satan, for uses His authority to destroy life.
- The climax of Jesus using His authority, was when He went to the cross and laid DOWN His life.
- **And in doing so, He actually REMOVED the authority of Satan, in OUR lives.**
- **The devil hates us, and wants to destroy us. But the only thing he has ON us is our SIN and our GUILT — that's the power he has against us.**
- We are all born with sin. And because of our sin, we are guilty before God.
- We have a verdict against us, that says, “GUILTY” and Satan takes that guilty verdict and holds it over our heads and keeps under the weight of that guilt and shame.
- And he's right. In our sin, we are GUILTY before God.
- And unless our sin is removed, we REMAIN guilty before God, and ultimately under the authority of Satan, trapped in our guilt and shame.
- But what if the penalty for our sin, could be paid for, and our guilt and shame was removed?
- Then we would be free from ITS power, free from the guilty verdict. Free from the only power that Satan has in our lives.
- **When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sin, and when we trust in Him for the forgiveness of our sins, our GUILT is removed and Satan loses his power in our lives.**
- **Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)** “You were dead because of your sins...Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

- **When Jesus died, He took our guilty verdicts and nailed to the cross.**
- And then He cried out "IT IS FINISHED". It's done!"
- When you put your trust in Jesus, the debt against you is REMOVED!
- Christian, your debt is paid. YOU SINS ARE FORGIVEN.
- Your sin and guilt was the one thing that gave Satan authority over you.
- But Jesus has removed your sin and your guilt, "disarmed" the devil. He has taken away his weapons against you.
- Satan is POWERLESS over you, Christian.
- Jesus has made a public spectacle of him, triumphing over him in the cross.
- That means that Jesus took Satan, threw on the ground, and put His foot on the head of Satan, publicly shaming him the whole universe and all the angles and all the demons.
- He has been put to shame.
- So now, there may be tactical battles like Paul and Barnabas faced, but Satan's power against us, has been removed! There are some battles. But the WAR is over.
- **Jesus won the war.**

And...

3. WE ARE WITH JESUS

- Paul and Barnabas were not only well aware of the fact that Jesus had won the war.
- But they knew that they were WITH the One, who had won the war.
- And this determined HOW they approached the situation.
- They were confronted with opposition, but they were not afraid, or timid. They were confident.
- I mean, how punk rock is it, that Paul makes this dude temporarily blind, as punishment for the way he was deceiving this governor and opposing the work of God?
- That's some confidence.
- But where did his confidence come from?
- It came from knowing **whose** power and authority he was walking in.
- **2 Cor. 5** says that we are "**Ambassadors for Christ**".
- **Ambassadors are sent people who are given the authority of the one who sends them.**
- The beginning of our passage says, "**The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit**" (v.4)
- Paul and Barnabas were SENT and they KNEW that they were sent, and WHO had sent them. God had sent them!
- Paul and Barnabas could face opposition when it came, because they knew they had been sent by the authority of God, and the power of the His Spirit.
- THIS is where they're confidence came from!
- And this is where OUR confidence comes from. From the ONE who sent US.

- All access backstage pass...
- When we put our trust in Jesus, we get a badge that says, "I'm with Him".
- **Paul and Barnabas knew the victory belonged to Jesus. But they also knew that THEY belonged to Jesus.**
- And because they belonged to Jesus, what was His was now theirs — His victory was now their victory. His power was now their power. And His AUTHORITY was now their authority.
- And what was true for them is true for us.
- We read earlier, in **Eph. 1** that **JESUS** is seated at the right hand of the Father, far above all principalities and power.
- But it says in the next ch of Eph that WE are seated with Jesus (hands)
- The Bible says that the SAME power that rose Christ from the dead is the power that is at work within us.
- **When we were saved and received the Holy Spirit, we were given power, and we were given authority.**
- You need to know today that, if you have put your trust in Jesus then you are a Kingdom Kid, and Kingdom Kids have the authority of the King.
- **You don't need to be afraid of the Kingdom of darkness when you're living in the Kingdom of God.**
- **You have authority to stand up BOLDLY against the whiles of the devil.**
- If you're experiencing demonic opposition in your life, you need to know that you have authority to stand against that.
- **How do you know if it's demonic opposition and not just normal life stuff?**
- **Unfortunately there's no handbook, but you can start here:**
- When you experience UNREASONABLE fear, unreasonable anxiety... depression... temptation... division..., nightmares over and over, bitterness that is enslaving you, sin that is enslaving.
- There's a good chance the enemy is involved in SOME way.
- **Are there things in your life hindering you from the mission of God? Maybe the enemy has a part in that.**
 - It's usually a combination of our sinful nature and the devil working together.
 - The enemy takes advantage of our weaknesses and capitalizes on them.
- **You need to know that you have authority to stand against that.**
- You need to know that you have authority to stand against the enemy, and to SPEAK to the enemy.
- One of the distinctive we see throughout the gospels and the book of Acts is that we have been given authority to TELL the devil to get out of our lives and other people's lives.
- But how do I know if it's the devil? You may not. Rebuke him anyways.
- You don't have to be afraid of the enemy, when you are with JESUS.
- He won the war and you are with Him.

- What's His is yours. You have been given authority.
- **The question is. How will you we use it?**
- **Paul and Barnabas didn't just know that they been given authority.**
- **They knew the purpose for which they had been that authority.**
- **We have been given authority to bring the Kingdom of God in and through our lives — to bring freedom, to bring liberation. And ultimately to bring salvation.**
- In the same way that Jesus used His authority to meet OUR greatest need, we use our authority to meet people's greatest need.
- Paul and Barnabas knew that Christ has used his authority to meet their greatest need, and so they used their authority to meet this man's greatest need — His need for Jesus and salvation.
- We DO need to know that we have authority to walk in boldness when we see demonic activity in someone's life or our own life.
- We SHOULD pray for people to be radically healed and for miracles to happen, and tell demons to shut up and go away. And we SHOULD do it with boldness and authority.
- But if we ONLY use our authority to relieve that temporary suffering on earth, then we are missing it.
- God cares deeply about delivering people from ALL suffering, but ESPECIALLY eternal suffering.
- This is ultimately what Jesus used His authority for, and ultimately why He has given US His authority.