

“Believers Authority in Christ”

-> Pastor Damian Mericka / 23 FEB 2020

Series: KINGDOM VISION 20/20

Conversation Starter: “*You are taking the Bible too literally!*” *How often I heard this as a child and even now as a Pastor. In fact, most of my life I can recall this sort of reaction when I dared to believe Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday. I visualized this as a gate with an old, heavy lock on it and it would clank every time this was spoken. Until, the Spirit gave me a key...the key of Faith. Do I believe God’s Word? “Lord, increase our faith!!”*

Let’s Dig In! “*When the Kingdom of this world pushes back*”

Turn to Matthew 10:1-26. Jesus has called His Twelve Disciples and sends them out with authority to *cast out evil spirits* and to *heal the sick*. Their mission was to proclaim the power and authority of Jesus with a demonstration that brought God’s Kingdom very near to the people they were sent to.

While this sounds incredible, it would be responding to with great violence. Jesus goes on to tell them that they will be brought before the powers and authorities of this world’s Kingdom as they become a part of representing God’s Kingdom. It is starting among the lost sheep of Israel but will grow to include all people of all Nations, bringing the same push back.

Amidst this Jesus encourages us to not be afraid.

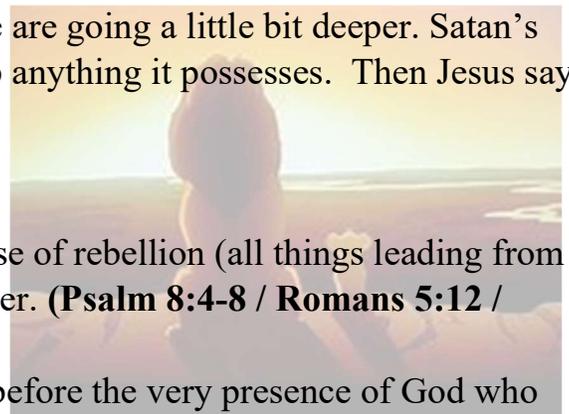
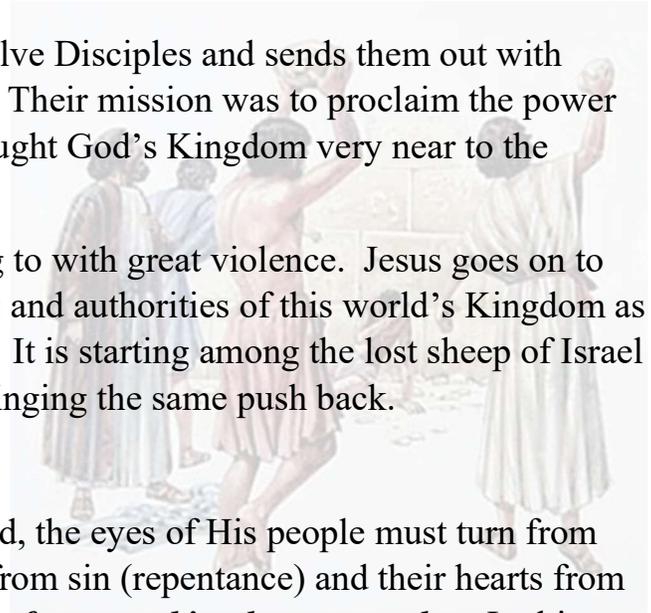
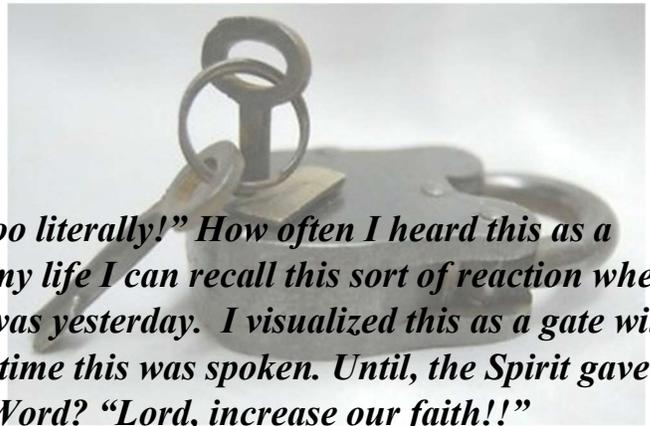
Check out Exodus 14:10-18. For God to be glorified, the eyes of His people must turn from something in order to behold Him. Their eyes turn from sin (repentance) and their hearts from the enslavement (deliverance / salvation). *They turn from one kingdom to another*. In this push back comes.

Context Time! “*Why does authority matter, anyway?*”

Mark 3:27. Last week we touched on this; this week we are going a little bit deeper. Satan’s kingdom will not divide against itself, nor will it give up anything it possesses. Then Jesus says *verse 27*.

How did Satan become the *strong man* in Jesus’ story?

- 1) In Adam, humanity chose sin and brought the curse of rebellion (all things leading from life to death) over all man was given dominion over. (**Psalm 8:4-8 / Romans 5:12 / Romans 8:19-23**)
- 2) Satan (Accuser / Adversary) was a created angel before the very presence of God who rebelled and was cast out. In the realm of sin, *spiritual forces out rank humanity*. (**Ezekiel 28:12-15 / I John 5:19**)



3) Demons. Created by and therefore not God, Satan possesses none of God's characteristics such as omniscience. Within the enemies kingdom, mankind enslaved, demons carry out Satan's rule (**Matthew 12:43-45 / 2 Corinthians 4:4 / Ephesians 2:1-3**)

Now, turn to **Colossians 2:13-15**. Everyone read *verse 15* out loud. *Memorize* it and *quote* it often.

In Jesus, our chains from sin are gone, the devil *bound* and his demonic forces *disarmed* as He walks us openly past them to a place of authority higher than their own!

Now, read **Ephesians 4:7-16 / Hebrews 2:5-18**. Jesus was made *lower* than the angels to raise (remember baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire) us up with Him *higher* than the angles!

(God) Jesus > Believers > Satan > Spirits > Fallen Humanity > Animals (Creation)

(Angelic Realm)

This is why Jesus giving authority to *Bind* and *Loosen* mattered then and *should matter today!*

Application Time (You knew this was coming)

Turn to **Luke 10:17-20**. As the Seventy came back to report, Jesus was saying *I know*. While you were out casting out and healing (binding / loosening) I was watching Satan falling from heaven as bolts of lightning!

Jesus affirms the abiding authority upon His followers; yet their highest joy must not be authority itself, nor even the results of it. Our joy must be anchored in our forgiven and eternal heavenly place with Jesus!

We are invited to *participate* in the work of God's Kingdom!

Matthew 10:5-15

This defeated and weakening kingdom will push back (persecution).

Matthew 10:16-25

Remain faithful to *Love, Believe* and *Proclaim* Jesus!

Matthew 10:2-33

As the Disciples were sent out to proclaim God's Kingdom, they did not go looking for spiritual fights.

As they and we proclaim the Gospel, battles emerge, and we are equipped to stand. As we bind and loosen in accord with God's Will, His Kingdom comes, and His will is done on earth as it is in Heaven.

“Deliverance does not lead the ministry; it emerges in the midst of ministry.”

-K Neill Foster, Paul L. King / *Binding & Loosing*