

## Mark 9:25-29 | Uprooting the Entrenched

### Mark 9:25

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

- Last week we looked at this whole passage but tonight I want to zero in on the situation of a high level angry malevolent vile spirit and the secret power of Jesus
- Jesus hasn't taught the disciples about such warfare before this—they have been through Demonology 101, but this is graduate level, Demonology 201. They don't know what's going on...
- Most of the Church is just like the disciples, having no idea how to get free from such powers of darkness
- They could not cast it out. They could not get the light into the darkness. They are exasperated

“This kind”

- What is “this kind?”
- We are talking about entrenched spirits—not singular, but plural.
- High level spirits entrenched—Eph 6:12 speaks of different levels of power in the demonic world—different levels, different gradations

- **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**
- If you misdiagnose the problem you will misapply the remedy
- In this boy I see the Church, the struggling believer, trying to do the right things, trying to work it out, trying to be a good person, a father who loves his son wanting him to be free, going to church to get help
- The father brings his son to the disciples and the disciples are the pastorate, the leaders of the church today. Trying so hard, trying to be a good pastor. Using methods they learned in seminary, giving advice from their experience, being loving, being pastoral, but there is only one major problem—the people are NOT getting set free. There's no power!
  - **Paul, speaking of his ministry, *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power***<sup>1</sup>
  - So, the disciples can't set this boy free, not from lack of effort but lack of power!
  - This young boy can't get free, not because of lack of desire, but lack of power!
  - This kind. This kind of spirit—a highly empowered, entrenched stronghold—can't come out because they are misdiagnose the problem and thus misapply a remedy
  - Like the disciples we just run in and think we can easily work this out. We are so busy with our activities but we are not seeing people get free! The addictions, the morality, the ethics are very little different among church goers as non-

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<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Co 2:2-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

church goers

- We need a more clear diagnosis of “this kind.” The church today is in trouble. The Jesus follower is not becoming a Jesus disciple because the heart is all torn up, the heart is dark, the heart is broken and we are not confronting the enemies entrenched position

**Listen to something Liz said to me the other day: “Steve, there are no demons that exist that cannot be uprooted and driven out.”**

- All demonic entrenched spirits can be driven out. This is what Jesus is saying. All spirits are under the power of Christ if we apply his diagnosis and remedy
- Some of our children have entrenched spirits and they need you to fight for them. Like this father who is bringing his child to the disciples, we fathers and mothers will have to fight for our children
- Our families need us as parents to block, fight, and bring our children to Jesus and push back the darkness—our kids don’t know how to fight yet and we must guide them, bring them, carry them along—their spiritual legs are only forming right now

**“This kind” are high ground, high level, highly entrenched spirits with great power**

- Entrenched in your heart—dark broken places in your heart
- Familiar spirits that you have come to like—yes, you like them, you have become familiar with them—you may even say that they are your personality. They are your personality because they are your spiritual kinship of your heart
- Ex. like a broken bone that never set right. You adapt and compensate for the inconvenience, and thus it seems natural to you, normal life for you, but others look at you and feel like that

thing is not good, not healthy and some have the boldness and courage to say something. But you won't listen because you just think it's normal for you. It's familiar; it's just who you are.

- It's familiar because it's a high ground deeply entrenched spirit
- And you develop these entrenched addictions. Addictions are just self medicating the broken places of your heart
- We self medicate with food, sex, need for attention, approval, shopping, more stuff, alcohol, gossip and comparing with others, blaming, negativity (because we know that if we hope we could get hurt, so we never hope anymore) working out—looks, intimacy issues (anorexic), fear of friendships...
- Another Lizism: "Who you are is how you lived yesterday"
- Don't you want to be set free? Don't you want the power to change? I want a free heart! I want those spirits cast out!
- The darkness is rising outside and inside the Church today! But the outpouring of power, the Windstorm of the Spirit is also rising!

**Jesus explains that the normal Christian life as we have come to understand it, isn't going to drive out high ground, deep level spirits**

- Which Jesus are coming to? There's "Churchy Jesus," "Cultural Jesus," and "The Jesus of the Bible"
- Churchy Jesus can't uproot such spirits
- Cultural Jesus can't drive out such darkness
- **But the Jesus of the Bible, the Real Jesus, He has given us His weapons and His strategy**

**So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but**

## **prayer and fasting.”**

- When the enemy is entrenched on high ground, when the enemy is well fortified, when the enemy has built up strongholds, you have to attack and uproot them
- Jesus says prayer and fasting breaks the power of the enemy
- All of the saints in scripture fasted and prayed for breakthrough
- Ex. Daniel fasted and prayed for 21 days and the great angels, Michael came to this other angel after fighting with the Prince of Persia—he came because he sought God for 21 days
- Ex. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days...
- In uprooting and casting out darkness over your life:
  - Overwhelming Force—allies
  - Greater Power—Holy Spirit
  - Strategic Thinking—a plan
- Ex. I'm fasting and praying for all next week, starting on Monday through Friday, 5 days
- Windstorm is an invitation into the power of God...
- The power of evil is escalating and the outpouring of the Spirit is also escalating! I am hopeful for a move of God's Spirit. We need a great outpouring, Windstorm, of the Spirit over our church, over our city, over our state, over our nation
- Let's begin on Monday at 6pm

## **Time of prayer for healing after worship...**