

Weaving the Word

Robbing the Strong Man

Part 55 – January 17, 2016

Welcome to where we're learning to trust our Savior and share our faith!

Are you robbing God or robbing Satan? Jesus says we're gonna rob one of 'em; and we best choose wisely. Because, **our Redeemer came to rob the strong man's house!**



Here's where we're at in Jesus' journey to the cross:

He chose His twelve, cured the Centurion's servant, raised a dead son, healed a leper, and returned to Capernaum, a parking-lot-size village.

And here, He *delivers* a demon-possessed man who was blind, but *now sees*; and mute, but now *speaks!*



And the crowd went wild! He's a *Rock Star!* And, His crowds are *massive!* Tens of thousands by land *and* boat. (Mk 3:8; Jn 6:23-24)

[Last week we read] Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, **so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.** When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." – Mark 3:20-21 NIV



... but they were **not able to get near him because of the crowd.** – Luke 8:19b NIV

Here's what it would've actually looked like. It's like squeezing the entire population of Burlington and Sedro Woolley into our parking lot. Do you get why the religious leaders were nervous?



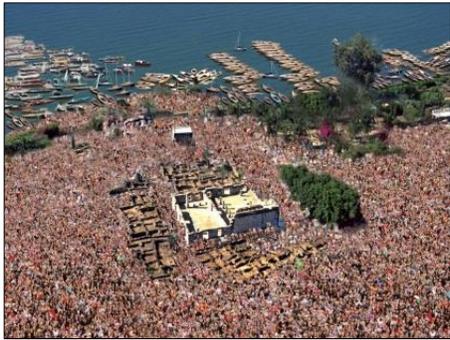
All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" – Matthew 12:23 NIV

But, the religious wolves are among the sheep, opposing His authority and poisoning His flock, cunningly whispering frightening accusations.



"He is possessed by Beelzebul!" [Lit. "*master of the house*"] ***"It is only by Beelzebul, ["master of the house"] the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."*** – Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22 NIV

They're saying: *"Only the master of the house would have the authority to command those within his household."*



And *this* is when the gloves come off.

Jesus knew their thoughts So Jesus **called them** and **spoke to them** in parables: and **said to them**: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. – Mark 3:23-24; Luke 11:17 NIV

“You: Pharisee! You: Teacher of the Law! And you, you, you, and you ... come to Me!”

How surreal, to be standing in that massive crowd and suddenly hear the water lapping at the shore, the birds chirping in the trees, and those religious rulers shuffling their way to Jesus.

Nobody calls these guys out; let alone corrects ‘em. They hold the power. They excommunicate you. They can ruin your life! And, He speaks to them in *parables*, intentionally ambiguous. They don’t know *where* He’s going with this. **He uses the term *Satan (adversary, opposer)* instead of *Beelzebub (house master)***, but He talks about a *divided house* and the unbiblical, illogical, nonsense that he’d attack his own forces.

If Satan opposes himself and is divided, How then can his kingdom stand? he cannot stand; his end has come. [They’re like, “Okay,” glancing around, “What’s His point?” And now, the staggering, decisive blow] I say this because **you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub**. – Matthew 12:26; Mark 3:26; Luke 11:18 NIV

Cue gasps in each crowd section where they’d been whispering. *“How’d He know what they were ... how’d he know who was ... how could He have heard ...” I just love Jesus so much!*

You know why he *didn’t* use the term Beelzebub *before* this: because, *He knows how to make a moment! He’s the Teacher, the Master, and the true Head of the House.*

[He later says to His disciples, regarding this moment] “It is enough for the student to be like his **teacher**, and the servant like his **master**. If the **head of the house** has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!” – Matthew 10:25 NIV

1,400 years *earlier*, the Lord said *this* (regarding this time):

“The time is coming,” declares the Lord, *“when I will make a new covenant with **[both] the house of Israel [the rebellious]** and with **the house of Judah. [The faithful]** ... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,”* declares the Lord. *[“And you shall call His name Jesus.” (Mat 2:21)]* *“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* – Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV

Meanwhile, back in Capernaum, the religious leaders are still under public scrutiny, and Jesus is just gettin’ warmed up! **He knows their thoughts, calls ‘em out, and lays out their lies.**

And, **they've unwittingly endorsed His power as superior to Satan.**

Their hands are tied, not to mention their tongues!

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. “Or again, how can anyone enter In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. – Matthew 12:28-29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:20 NIV

He’s come to repossess the possessed and oppressed.

If the enemy is armed with demons, Jesus binds ‘em and casts ‘em out.

If he’s armed with *these guys*, Jesus *calls ‘em out* and exposes ‘em.

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the **armor** [the accuser’s voice inside and outside] in which **the man** [Beelzebub] **trusted** [peithō: persuaded] and **divides up the spoils.**” – Luke 11:21-22 NIV

The word translated “divides up” (diadidōmi) also means, “delivers”.

Jesus comes to unite His own house and divide the enemy’s.

A few sermons back I said Jesus was the greatest Thief, because He robbed the great thief. (Luke 12:39) Well, **not only is He a Robbing Redeemer, but He expects you to be His accomplice!**

“He who is **not with me** [robbing the strong man’s house] is **against me**, [robbing the strong man’s house] and he who does not **gather** with me **scatters.**” – Matthew 12:30 NIV



He who doesn’t gather what?

The spoils! The treasure! The souls of those held captive.

But, **how do we assist Jesus in the strong man’s house?**

Who even wants to go into the strong man’s house?

Who even knows where it is?

Now don’t anybody panic; but, **we’re in the strong man’s house right now.**

“You are the light of **the world**. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in **the house**. In the same way, [as in the house] let your light shine before men, [in the world] that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father **in heaven.**” [Where His house is] – Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

How many of the souls you know do you suppose are being held captive by sin and the accuser's voice in the strong man's house?

And, how many are completely unaware of his dark deceptions?

You're holding the light that can help 'em find the Way.

And, the only way to rob the strong man is to overpower his tactics with truth in love: the Good News of God's unconditional love, and our salvation by grace, through faith, in Christ.

By taking on our sin, and paying the full penalty, forever, He's tied the accuser's hands ... not to mention his *tongue*.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. **You struck the head [Gen 3:15] from the house of the wicked**, by **laying bare [arah: exposing]** from **foundation [of sand] to neck. [The heavy yoke]** You thrust through **with his own arrows [using their sharp tongues against 'em]** the head of **his villages. [Like Capernaum]** **[Though]** They came out like a whirlwind **to scatter** ... – Habakkuk 3:13-14a NKJ

And now, Jesus says, "he who does not gather with me *scatters*."

You may think you're simply not helping, but you're scattering.



There's no neutral stance.

The accuser is always accusing, the deceiver deceiving, and our *inaction* works in the enemy's favor.

Picture frightened children in a burning building. And, when the fireman comes they run. *Unless* you help *them* to see that he's come to save. And you help *him* to gather. But, could you imagine doing *nothing* as they scattered away from their only hope?



Are you robbing God or robbing Satan?

We're gonna rob one of 'em, so choose wisely.

Just as the children began to embrace Jesus, the religious leaders *told* 'em to run. *Ooooh*.

Next, Jesus gives it to 'em with *both* barrels!

Next week, that is.

He makes a statement *so damning*, it troubles believers to this day; He tells 'em ... they're committing ... *the "unforgivable sin"*.