

PRIORITY 1

#4 – First Bind the Strongman

Introduction:

- Read **Matthew 12:22-30**

²²Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

²³All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

²⁵Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

²⁶“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

²⁷“And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So, they will be your judges.

²⁸“But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

²⁹“Or again, how can anyone 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.

³⁰“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters...”

- Story of con job [P55 ‘The Power of Spiritual Alignment’ – Frank Damazio]

Shortly after parking in front of the office, a well-dressed businessman backed into Mr Bailey’s car, causing no more than a slight scratch on his fender. Mr Bailey told the man to forget the incident, but the businessman insisted on making compensation. He asked for Bailey’s address and promised to send him two tickets to a play.

Two weeks later, the tickets arrived, designation specific seating for a specific date. Along with the tickets came a box of candy and a gift certificate for dinner at a plush restaurant near the Performing Arts Centre. An entire night's entertainment was being provided in exchange for a mere scuff on Mr Bailey's car. He and his wife were thrilled!

The night was glorious – all it had promised to be – that is, until Mr Bailey and his wife returned home. As they pulled into the driveway, something felt eerie. Then, when they opened the door to the house, both husband and wife began to sob.

They had been duped – unsuspecting victims of a slick thief who had planned their evening so that he might empty their home of all its goods and drive away in a fully packed moving van. This poor couple had been completely taken advantage of because they did not understand the schemes of their enemy.

1. The Enemy's Mandate

John 10:10 *'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'*

- Comes to:
 - Steal – you used to have it and now you don't
 - Kill – it was alive and flourishing, bearing fruit, but now it is dead
 - Destroy – something in your life that could have been powerful; destiny that has been stopped, hindered or crippled.
- The man [in Matthew 12] was having
 - his life stolen,
 - his life that should be flourishing was slowly dying,
 - his future which could have been powerful was being destroyed.
- Jesus is the restorer – part of our kingdom inheritance is to reclaim it.
 - Even when we have unwittingly co-operated with the devil and he has stolen from us.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 *“Stay away from all the foolish arguments of the immature, for these disputes will only generate more conflict.*

For a true servant of our lord Jesus will not be argumentative, but gentle toward all and skilled in helping others see the truth, having great patience toward the immature.

Then with meekness you’ll be able to carefully enlighten those who argue with you so they can see God’s gracious gift of repentance and be brought to the truth.

This will cause them to rediscover themselves and escape from the snare of Satan who caught them in his trap so that they would carry out his purposes.”

- That too can be restored.

2. Who is in Charge Anyway?

Psalm 24:1 *‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything it; the world and all who live in it...’*

1 John 5:19 *‘We know that we are the children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.’*

- Car Illustration: [I own the car; someone else is driving it]

2 Corinthians 4:4 *‘The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.’*

Ephesians 2:2 *‘... in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.’*

3. Jesus Our Deliverer.

1 **John 3:8b** *“Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one.”*

(a) Jesus overcame in the wilderness:

- Overcame temptation:
 - By the word / revelation of God (Luke 4)

Luke 4:4 *Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live by bread alone.”’*

- Not just physical, but spiritual

Luke 4:5-8 *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.*

And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

- By knowing where real power and authority come from and who to worship.

Luke 4:9-12 *The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here.*

For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully' they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "It says: 'do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- Don't try to force God's hand

(b) Jesus Overcame in His ministry:

- Every healing
- Every miracle
- Every deliverance
- Every life changed
- Jesus was plundering the strongman's house and taking back his possessions.

(c) With His Death and Resurrection:

- Holy Spirit subsequently poured out
 - This means His followers can expect this overcoming to continue

4. Dealing with the Strongman:

Matthew 12:29 *"...Or again, how can anyone 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."*

- Strongman = Satan
- Possessions = people / slaves

John 8:35-36 *'Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'*

- Son has the authority to set you free
- Jesus has the authority to deal with the strongman
 - God the Son has the resources to pay the price
 - Jesus had the character to die for the sins of the world
 - Jesus demonstrated Satan's demise by rising from the dead.

Matthew 18:18 *'I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'*

- What about the things that the strongman has stolen from you?
 - Bind =tie up; forbid
 - Ancient world: 'binding' = power exercised over someone by a sorcerer, god or spirit
 - Loosing = setting that person free by removing the binding over his or her life.
- Bind = tie up; make ineffective the influence of the enemy
- Loose – set them free in Jesus' Name

5. How to Resist:

1 Peter 5:8-9 *'Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.'*

- Resist
 - firmly plant your feet
 - forbid