

Sermon Discussion Questions

8th Day People: Spiritual Warfare – Matt Slocum
11 February 2024
Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:10-12

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

This week Matt continues the series **8th Day People**.

Everyone who is born is born into war. **8th Day People** step into this war as soldiers. In his message called, **Spiritual Warfare**, Matt teaches us about Spiritual Warfare and let's the Word of God shine its light on this oft misunderstood topic. (Notes from his message are included at the end of these questions).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. What was Impactful to you from this week's message on Spiritual Warfare?
2. Do you see anything in your life currently that may walk the line of being a connection point to the Divine outside of Jesus? Why is it important that Jesus is our only connection to the Divine?
3. Understanding brings light and clarity that causes the dark powers to retreat. Do you feel you can communicate the following theological ideas? Explain who the principalities and powers are. The importance of the Gentiles (nations) receiving the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the concept that Christians inherit the nations.
4. What practical ways can you enact the great commission in your sphere of influence so that the fullness of the nations is coming into the kingdom?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. Did you watch the Super Bowl? Do you have any family traditions associated with the game?
2. What is your favorite spectator sport? Why?
3. What is your favorite activity?

APPLICATION

The only way for us to connect with God is through the Spirit of His son Jesus. Are there activities or things in your life you associate with connecting with God? (ie. nature, running, yoga, ...) How does this fit with the truth in God's word that there is only one way to connect with God?

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on at NWC, go to <https://nwckc.com> or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Study materials are also available on the website or Facebook page.

Kingdom Come: 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, 5-25 February, <https://nwckc.com/kingdom-come-fast>

FINAL THOUGHT

Spiritual warfare against the principalities and powers is fulfilling the great commission.

Sermon Notes

Evil Intelligence: Dark powers in the world, that are not usually perceived by our senses, but bring a perceived negative effect.

Categories of Evil Intelligence:

1. Demons/ daimon: Demi-god. Denotes rank. These are second-generation, second-class evil intelligence. They are low in rank and low in power. These need to be put in their proper place and context so that we understand that demons are distractions.

2. The Devil; The Satan. (This being is never given a proper name in the Bible, only described with titles). He has priority of place in the evil hierarchy not because he is inherently the greatest, but because he was the first rebel. He became lord of the dead—he owns the souls of humankind because humans followed him in rebellion. Resurrection is his defeat. The curse of death is reversed by resurrection. But ultimately, this means the work of Christ is about more than paying the penalty for guilt. (Most of our current salvation models focus only on the payment for moral guilt, leaving out the reality that Satan has no more legal right to humanity.)

3. Spiritual beings allotted to the nations (Deut 32:8-9) the sons of God put over the nations who become corrupt (Psalm 82) leading the nations into rebellion against YHWH. (The clearest picture of one of these beings is in Daniel 10:13 in the episode with the “prince of Persia” and the “prince of Israel” named Michael.)

Consequently, the work of Christ had to provide a solution for these fallen beings as well. This, too, was accomplished at the cross. This is why, when Paul thinks of the resurrection, it isn't only about a cure for death (it doesn't just address Genesis 3)—Paul links it to the defeat of the principalities and powers. (Eph 6:12) Principalities and powers, not demons, are the real trouble. A key part of the gospel is that Gentiles (people of the nations) are to forsake their Gods and follow Jesus (YHWH)

Vocabulary in NT:

rulers - archontōn or archōn

principalities - archē

powers/authorities - exousia

powers - dynamis

dominions/lords - kyrios

thrones - thronos

world rulers - kosmokratōr

Deut 32:8-9 ESV

*When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,*

he fixed the borders of the peoples

according to the number of the sons of God.

9 But the Lord's portion is his people,

Jacob his allotted heritage.

"Connection with God is only through the Spirit of His Son Jesus."

Deliverance model:

1. Check for open doors.
2. Walk through generational curses, soul ties, inner vows, curses.
3. Identify, pray against, cast out, rebuke specific evil spirits.
4. Pray prayers of renunciation.

Love's Model:

1. Listen CALMLY for the Holy Spirit, the voice of Love.
2. Identify lies that are spoken. [I'm not valuable; this is my fault, I'm bad]
3. Bring and understanding of theological truth in light of the cross. Namely, the powers of darkness are defeated and have no power over you.
4. Lead them to believe and seek the truth as an act of THEIR will.
5. Continue with them through the healing.

Spiritual warfare against the principalities and powers is defined by fulfilling the great commission.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

8th day people enact the great commission spreading the good news that the principalities and powers have lost their power over the nations (gentiles) and that Jesus is Lord.

This is the main thing evil intelligence attempts to delay and sabotage the life of every Christian. The sooner the great commission is fulfilled, the sooner their judgment comes.