



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Unshackled Hearts (Forces of Darkness pt 4)

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Prayer

"God, you have always been faithful to your promises and I have no reason to doubt you. I am so thankful that you have been walking with me my whole life and that you have good and beautiful things for me. God it is such a joy to know you and be known by you. You are wonderful and mighty in all your ways. Amen."

Message Theme

Deception Of The Enemy

Key Truths

We as Christians are in a spiritual war. This sounds intense but being a part of the kingdom is dealing with the devil. If we resist the devil, he will flee from us, but if we aren't resisting, he isn't fleeing. This doesn't mean hunting him down but standing up to him when he crosses our path.

In Mark 5: A man comes to Jesus desiring to be freed from demons, knowing that if he can just ask Jesus he can be freed. This man had opened the door to the enemy and was now overcome. Jesus deals with the spirit and commands the demons to leave. Once we let something like unforgiveness into our hearts we open the door for the enemy.

When we forgive, the person we are setting free is ourselves.

The enemy wants us to cooperate with him. Adam and Eve cooperated, listened to satan and ended up handing him the authority God gave them. We have a natural protection from God that breaks down when we make poor choices and gives satan a chance to enter.

Some signs of demonic activity:

- Violent behavior
- Unresolved conflict → do not let bitterness spring up. Bitterness can't be aimed, it's more like a grenade, causing trouble and spoiling everybody's life
- Fixation with death and occult symbols → We were built by God to have a natural aversion to death.
- Suicidal thoughts → Things that focus on death and encourage it.

- When no one can help you → Demons want to influence our personality and they try to destroy it.

Practical Application

Jesus told us to repent and to rethink our life. The bible was given to us to change the way we think and Paul states it in Romans 12:1-2

We have to renew our mind and take authority over the enemy, presenting our body as a living sacrifice. This world is full of influences from every direction that will influence and overcome us if we aren't careful.

Reference Verses

- 2 Corinthians 2:11
- Ecclesiastes 8:8, 7:9
- Matthew 12:28-30, 16:18, 8:16
- Luke 10:19, 4:1-13
- Mark 16:17, 5:1-20
- 1 John 5:19
- Proverbs 16:32
- Hebrews 12:15
- 1 timothy 4:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 15:26
- 2 timothy 2:26
- Romans 12:1-2
- James 1:1

Declarations

"I am going to take every thought captive because I know that what God has for me is good. He is a perfect father that brings life, light, and happiness. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy and he has no place here. As I learn how to stand up against satan I will also press in and pursue the Heavenly Father."

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

Unshackled Hearts

2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV ...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV ...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Matthew 12:28 NKJV But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 16:18 KJV ...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Luke 10:19 NKJV Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Mark 16:17 NKJV And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons...

Matthew 8:16 NKJV When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick...

Matthew 8:16 Williams ...Many who were under the power of the devil...

1 John 5:19 AMPC We know [positively] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one.

Colossians 1:13 ASV ...who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love...

Mark 5:1-20 NKJV Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes . And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Romans 1:26-28 NKJV REF For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful...God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...

Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Hebrews 12:15 TNT See to it that no one falls away from God's grace, that no bitterness springs up to cause trouble and spoil everybody's life.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 NKJV Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.

1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...

1 Corinthians 15:26 NKJV The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Mark 5:4 NKJV ...neither could anyone tame him.

2 Timothy 2:26 NKJV ...and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Numbers 13 NKJV REF

Matthew 11:12 NKJV ...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.