



## desert breeze community church

**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis  
January 25, 2009  
**Jesusology**

### “Spiritual Warfare”

Mark 1:21-34

There is a more serious war than the war in Iraq.  
Its battleground is not physical but spiritual.  
Its stakes are not just the loss of life but the loss of eternal life.

#### What I Need to Know About Spiritual Warfare:

Mark 1:21-34

#### 1) There is an unseen spirit world that greatly influences the seen material world.

- Two Kingdoms at war. God (Light) vs. Satan (Darkness) (Eph. 6:12)

*“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”*

— C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*

- Three fronts: Society (World values), Self (Sinful nature), Satan (Unseen world). (Eph. 2:1-3)

#### 2) This world is currently under the authority of the Kingdom of Darkness.

- Satan gained dominion through the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. (Gen. 3; John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:3-4, 1 John 5:19; Eph. 2:2; Matt. 4:8)

*“Where God is on one side, you may be sure to find the devil on the other.” William Gurnall, 1655*

- Satan is not opposite and equal to God but a fallen angel with limited power that has a well-organized network of demons to help him accomplish his purposes. (Satan’s fall: Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:15-17; Rev. 12:7-9. Satan’s forces: Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:13; Col. 2:15; Mark 1:23-26)

- His purposes: Destruction. (John 10:10; 1 Pet. 5:18)  
Sin is when we acknowledge any other authority in our lives other than God to organize and rule our lives.  
“Authority” (vv22 & 27) = Gr. Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases or physical and mental power.

*Oswald Chambers – “For a thing to be satanic doesn’t mean its abominable or immoral. A satanically managed man is absolutely self Controlled and has no need for God.”*

#### 3) Jesus came to re-establish God’s authority on the earth.

- This war was proclaimed prophetically after the fall. (Gen. 3:15)
- The inauguration of the overthrow of Satan began at Jesus’ 1<sup>st</sup> coming by establishing His personal Kingdom in the hearts and lives of people. (Mark 1:15; v22, v27)
- At Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> coming he will complete His takeover of this planet earth by establishing His political Kingdom. (1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 19-22)
- It comes through the Person & Work of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:11), the Word of God (Matt. 4:1-11), Prayer (Matt. 6:10,13) and Community (Matt. 16:17-19).

#### 4) When God’s authority is re-established it brings fullness of life.

- His Kingdom is what we dream about and long for. (Rom. 14:17)
- Fullness of life is seen in our serving, giving, and loving others. V30 “helped her up” = same word for resurrection of Christ. V31 “The fever left her and she began to wait on them.”

*“Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature’s night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,—I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.” – (Charles Wesley)*

*“And tho this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.  
A mighty fortress is our God” (Martin Luther)*



# Growing

January 25, 2009

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- 1) Read the text for this week: Mark 1:21-34. What stands out to you from this text? Why is spiritual warfare a much greater threat and ultimately the underlying reality of any physical warfare such as relational conflict or the Iraq war? (Eph. 6:12)
  
- 2) What three fronts are parts of this spiritual war? (Eph. 2:1-3) How did Satan gain dominion over this world? How does Satan's power compare to God's power? (Col. 2:15; Mark 1:23-26)
  
- 3) Sin is when we acknowledge any other authority in our lives other than God to organize and rule our lives. (i.e. "Lord of the Rings" - Smeagol into Gollum) Explain. How can the quest for beauty or money or comfort ultimately rule our lives?
  
- 4) What does it mean that Jesus came to re-establish God's authority on earth? When will His take-over be completed? How can we experience God's authority in our life's?
  
- 5) What happens to a life where God's authority is reestablished? In what area(s) of your life are you needing His authority reestablished? Make it your prayer & identify the resources you need to reinforce it. (i.e. Person & Work of Jesus (Rev. 12:11), the Word of God (Matt. 4:1-11), Prayer (Matt. 6:10, 13) and Community (Matt. 16:17-19).