

Deliver the City Part 2

Luke 11:20-22

20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

2021 Field Focus

I. How to fast

1. Total fast: no food or drink, short-term.
2. Regular fast: no food, drink water, juice
3. Partial fast: no food for part of a day or refrain from some foods; some identify things they will refrain from doing, games, social media
4. Include prayer time for the things you seek in prayer.
5. May go several days eliminating a meal; may go one to several days with no food.
6. May stagger your days a few days of fasting, a day of eating, more days of fasting.
7. May increase the number of fasting days at a time as the fast goes on.
8. I encourage a weekly fasting day every week.

II. Introduction

1. Since the Lord has planted the BUPC in this city, our primary reach is to our neighbors in our community.
2. And as a church in this city, our role is to proclaim our city for Jesus and for His kingdom.
3. Due to the rioting that took place in our nation's capital last Wednesday, and the turmoil surrounding our nation's leaders, we took a focus on praying for our nation this past week. And we must continue that.
4. But as we do, we must bring our focus to the field, our own local community, and focus our prayers, repentance, and labors here.
5. I want to preach to you this morning on **Deliver the City Part 2**.

III. Who is in authority here?

A. Ahab and Samaria

1. This past week, a passage of scripture came before my attention several times. About the fourth time, I finally saw why. I had something to learn.
2. It was about 900 BC and was during the days of King Ahab, one of the wicked kings of Israel.
3. But Ben-hadad, the king of Syria created an alliance of neighboring nations and rose against Israel to attack (sounds like the Six-day war of 1967).
4. In two verses we read of a sad interchange between the two kings. The king of Syria sent this message to the king of Israel:

1 Kings 20:3-4

3 Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.

4 And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

5. **Don't listen to the enemy!** Israel was overwhelmed by the size of the adversary, but in these two verses, we see a fearful threat of the adversary, followed by a quick surrender by Israel.
 6. Israel said, "You want our wives and children? You can have them. Why not, they are the most vulnerable in the land."
 7. It is difficult to understand the willingness to so readily give up on the family without putting up a fight.
 8. But as this passage was brought to my attention four times this past week, I decided that perhaps the Lord was showing me why families in our community have suffered such an attack.
 9. The adversary came on with a fearful threat on the families of our community, and some were just willing to give up without a fight.
 10. Well we cannot just give up and say, "Oh well. The adversary is just too strong."
 11. Should we just give up and surrender our families and children to the attack of the enemy, or should we show up for battle?
 12. We get a great lesson later in this passage in 1 Kings 20 from the words of a prophet:
1 Kings 20:13-14
13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it in to thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.
14 And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.
 13. Do you see the moral of this story? The enemy wanted Israel to surrender their young people. Why? Because it was God's plan to use them to bring deliverance!
 14. What if the young people in our family and our city have a destiny to do great things for God? What will happen to that destiny if we just give up on them without a fight?
 15. I don't know what this king had in mind by being so willing to so quickly surrender the family to the adversary. **THEY ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR!**
- B. Surrendering Authority
1. As we discussed last week, the only reason the adversary has any control over our people, or our cities is because someone surrendered.
 2. God will defend His children.
 3. But those who chose to rebel against God are surrendering to the adversary, and are snubbing the One who is their Protection against the adversary.
 4. That is when the adversary comes in and sets up his place for attack and dominance.

5. When a people yield to enemy, they are surrendering their God-given right of authority to the prince and power of the air.
 6. And the sin of a land will lead that land into captivity and bondage under the influence of the devil.
- C. It is spiritual warfare
1. Today we must recognize the reality of the spiritual warfare before us.
 2. Today we have been placed into a “field” by God and have been tasked with taking it for the kingdom by force.
 3. As Jesus reminded us:
Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
 4. And just a few verses later, Jesus revealed a truth that blows the devil’s deception about who is rightfully has the final authority:
*Matt 11:27 All things are **delivered unto me of my Father**: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*
 5. This land needs to be healed of the dominion that sin had placed over it and the healing that comes through repentance.
2 Chron 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
 6. Our land needs a healing in order to be delivered from the adversary’s dominion.
- D. Fasting and repenting for deliverance
1. That is where fasting, repenting, and prayer come in.
 2. Last week we read about Daniel and his prayer of repentance for his people. Not just himself, but for his people.
Dan 9:3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:
 3. Last week we read his full prayer of repentance in *Dan 9:4-19*. Today we will read how Daniel’s prayer concluded and what happened next:
Dan 9:17-19
17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.
18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.
19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.
 4. And this is what happened right after he concluded his prayer:
Dan 9:20-23
*20 And **whiles I was speaking**, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy*

mountain of my God;

21 Yea, **whiles I was speaking in prayer**, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, **being caused to fly swiftly**, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23 **At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth**, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

5. Notice that as soon as Daniel prayed and repented on behalf of his nation, the angel was caused to fly swiftly with a commandment concerning his prayer.
 6. And while Daniel was praying for his people, and his nation, and his times, the angel provided an answer that was much larger than what Daniel had even asked.
 7. All Daniel asked for was forgiveness and restoration for his nation. But if you keep reading in Daniel 9, this one man's prayer of repentance brought about forgiveness and restoration of the land, and revelation of the Messiah and the end of days.
 8. I just wonder what will happen when we pray and fast for repentance for our nation and city.
 9. Don't be narrow sighted when it comes to praying during your fasting time.
 10. Our prayer may be for some local need, but the answer may lead us to end time revival and the coming of the Lord.
- E. I am come for thy words
1. Then chapter 10 describes another prayer and fasting time of Daniel, where Daniel fasted three weeks.
 2. We get an interesting behind-the-scenes view of how prayer is received and responded to in heaven.
 3. We see Daniel on a three week fast, but he received no immediate answer to his prayer. But that was only because of his limited perspective:
*Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and **the thing was true, but the time appointed was long**: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.*
 4. But then he learned something important about prayer from a heavenly being that appeared to him.
Dan 10:12-13
*12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for **from the first day** that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, **thy words were heard**, and **I am come for thy words**.*
13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.
 5. The prayer of repentance was answered, but the resistance from the spiritual wickedness in high places did not come down immediately.

6. In fact that resistance continued to fight, but even though the time appointed was long, Daniel's prayer continued.
 7. Plus, we learn that God heard Daniel's prayer on the first day he prayed, and that heavenly being said **"I am come for thy words."**
 8. What we learn from this passage is that there may be times when the wicked influences of a land hinders prayers from being immediately answered.
 9. However, if there is a praying and repenting man or woman of God, their words spoken in prayer will be heard on the first day, and God sent an answer because of your words. **"I am come for thy words."**
 10. What that speaks to us as we move into this second week of prayer and fasting, is this: don't lose heart and give up if you don't see results of your prayer right away.
 11. From the first day you pray, God commissions our response.
 12. It is the violent who take it by force, so don't lay down your weapons in surrender.
 13. He is coming for our words! Take seriously a **2021 Field Focus**.
 14. And that focus begins by taking back more of this land for the Lord.
 15. As we take a greater **Field Focus** our effort begins now with repentance for our city.
- F. Taking our city
1. I want to bring this to our local situation down to the neighborhood where we live.
 2. Taking Daniel's lead in his pray for his people, we should repent for the drug dealing and use that is stealing groceries from and causing harm to innocent children and spouses.
 3. These are weapons that the adversary is using to destroy our future.
 4. We should repent of the drug and alcohol abuse that is destroying the lives and hopes of the users.
 5. These are weapons that the adversary is using to destroy our present.
 6. Beyond repenting of those sins, I think we should begin to actively pray that the supply of drugs would dry up in Clay County.
 7. As we drive past suspicious activity that looks and feels like dealing, pray against those weapons of the adversary that they shall not prosper but be destroyed.
Isa 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.
 8. I'm not advocating protesting with marches and holding signs, I'm advocating protesting through repentance and prayer.
 9. Perhaps a protest may cause a business to be shut down, but it will only rise up somewhere else.
 10. When we pray a prayer of repentance, we are praying for heart change. And when Jesus gets inside a heart, He can change it.
 11. Continue that prayer as we drive past the bars and liquor stores, pray that the bondage alcohol is causing will end at that establishment.

12. What if instead of our children being abused and neglected, that our neighborhoods were safe places where children were loved and well taken care of?
13. What if instead of walking past homes and hearing screams of anger or violence, that we heard songs of praise to the Lord or prayers being lifted to the Lord?
14. What if instead of many unemployed with families struggling, that there were family after family, home after home, who were blessed by diligent workers working to improve their city and families?
15. The influence of the kingdom of God in a city brings about these kinds of blessings to a city.

IV. Conclusion

1. Yes, there has been a strong influence of evil binding many in our city. But the church is called to be an influence that will bind that strong influence with an even stronger influence to bring about deliverance.
2. Jesus talked about how in war, a warrior would first bind a strong man, and then take his goods from him:
Matt 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.
3. Jesus used that example of warfare as a parallel to how the church would take down the “strong man,” a reference to the devil, which we will see in the next passage.
4. And “spoil[ing] his goods” means taking the things that strong man had in captivity—the people who had been trapped by the devil and his evil dominion.
5. Notice how the parallel passage in Luke’s gospel reveals clearly what Jesus was talking about:
Luke 11:20-22
20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.
21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:
22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.
6. Jesus was the “stronger than he” who came and stole the devil’s armor from him and then divided his spoils.
7. Jesus was the finger of God who came as the “new sheriff in town” and cast out the prince of this world every where He ministered.
8. And he delivered the “spoils” or those things the devil treasured as his own.
9. But God sees those as treasures in His field that He has called us to focus on in 2021 and overcome the strong man and set those treasures free!