

This is a powerful teaching. I hope that it blesses you!

MYESE!

Pastor Heard

Part 14: Elevate Your Life!

Text:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *“and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”*

Luke 9:1 (NIV) - “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.

Mark 5:1-17 (NKJV) - “Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. [2] And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, [3] who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, [4] 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. [5] And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. [6] When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. [7] 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.” [8] For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” [9] Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” [10] Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of

the country. [11] Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. [12] So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." [13] 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. [14] 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. [15] 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. [16] And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. [17] Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

A. Notice some important facts about these verses:

1. The man came running to worship Jesus, but instead, he pleaded to be left alone.
2. The spirits did not want to leave the area where they had become firmly entrenched.
3. The citizens would rather have Jesus leave than for their "system" to be upset. This man's deliverance damaged the structure of their local economy.

"Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority"

B. Major problems of the church are pinpointed in this study. More than a lack of power, it also involves spiritual authority and how to exercise our legitimate right to use the power God has invested in us.

1. To understand how something operates is a vital part of mastering it. It's difficult to take dominion over something you do not understand. If you

- have no knowledge of the components of electricity, what are your chances of becoming a master electrician?
2. God gave Adam dominion over everything in the earth. But before he could effectively exercise his dominion, God first brought all the creatures to Adam to see what he would "call" them.
 - a. **Genesis 2:19 (NKJV)** - "Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name."
 - b. God wasn't merely checking to see if Adam knew the correct names of the birds and beasts. The Hebrew word translated "call," also means to *endow*.
 - c. So, Adam did more than just call the creatures by name. To truly take dominion over the earth, he had to understand each creature well enough to endow it with a specific purpose.
 - d. God and His church also have the ability to speak purpose and destiny into lives. The enemy's plan is to control a person and subvert their true purpose by naming them incorrectly and making false statements about their life.
 - e. This reasoning is simple: whoever "names" you can control and take dominion over you.
 3. We have examined the first four dimensions of spiritual authority:
 - a. Authority over self
 - b. Authority within a family
 - c. Authority over secular systems
 - d. Authority within a ministry structure
 4. Because these dimensions are progressive, much like climbing a set of stairs, you must take a step before moving to the next. Today, we shall speak about the fifth dimension of spiritual authority:

"Authority Over Demonic Systems"

C. To oppose the values and government of God's Kingdom, our enemy has devised a system of his own that promotes destruction and death.

1. Demonic systems ALWAYS result in loss and suffering for mankind. Satan only inflicts hurt and ruin--never life and elevation.
2. Speaking of demonic systems and the problems they cause....
3. **Joke:** "Fire Across the Street"

A certain man in the community who had a reputation for being terribly mean and hateful was scheduled for surgery. When the patient awoke, he asked the nurse, "Why are all the blinds closed in this room and it's so dark?"

The nurse replied, "There's a big fire across the street. We didn't want you to wake up and think the operation was a failure."

4. What are demonic systems? We tend to identify them in child-like terms. The devil is caricatured as a fellow dressed in a red flannel suit with two horns and a forked tail. Oh, if only that was an accurate representation!
5. Just as the government of God brings peace and prosperity to all, demonic systems bring pain and suffering to all—but a few. But in the end, even those privileged few must pay the ultimate price.
6. Here are some of his wicked systems:
 - a. Clearly, drug cartels, human trafficking, child molestation and pornography are demonic in nature.
 - b. Jesus spoke of demonic religious systems in **John 8:44 (NKJV)** - "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he

speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

- c. Governments, such as Hitler's Nazi regime, can become very demonic.
- d. Organizations can be demonic, such as Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.
- e. When a legal system fails to stand for justice and mercy and embraces ungodly actions, such as abortion, it can become demonic.
- f. Any economic or financial system that exploits and enslaves people in poverty, while benefiting only a fortunate few, is demonic.
- g. Also in this category are international companies that greedily exploit third world countries by pillaging their resources and polluting their environment, with no regard for health or well being.
- h. Demonic systems are also at the local level, such as street gangs and peer pressure groups that encourage youth to break the law.
- i. Educational systems can become demonic if they teach the children entrusted to their care to disrespect the godly values instilled by their parents.

D. To take authority over demonic systems, we must first address the evil forces that CAUSE the problems in our society.

1. The Bible compares hierarchical and governmental systems in the kingdom of darkness with those in the Kingdom of God.
2. While the kingdom of darkness is devoted to creating havoc, chaos and destruction, it is actually very well organized.
3. The reason for the similarity between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness is that Lucifer copied the governmental system he

had once directed before his rebellious ways caused him to be cast out of Heaven.

4. The governmental structure of the kingdom of darkness consists of at least four levels of leadership.
 - a. **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)** – “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
 - b. This verse explicitly mentions four levels, and at least one implicitly.
 5. “Principalities” translated from the Greek is *magistrates*, or a lower level ruler.
 6. “Powers” in the Greek means: *regional leader, or a potentate*.
 7. “Rulers” in the Greek refers to *world ruler, or king*.
 8. At least one, and possibly two other levels are implied: “Spiritual wickedness in high places” may refer to our chief enemy himself or to lieutenants and other officers directly below him.
 9. Then, of course, there are common, run of the mill demonic spirits under the authority of higher levels of leadership.
- E. Jesus addressed the problems caused by demonic systems.
1. **Mark 1:27-28 (NKJV)** - “Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.' And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.”
 2. He also warned that the church would confront demonic systems.

- a. **Mark 16:17 (NKJV)** - "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues."
 - b. This passage reveals the obvious: if a believer has authority over demonic systems, they must leave when told to go. But if you have no authority or fail to **use** your authority, well.....they go nowhere. They stay.
 - 3. Obviously, Jesus had authority over **all** demonic systems.
 - 4. The very fact that people thought Jesus was demonstrating a new teaching or doctrine shows how rare this type authority had become in those days.
 - 5. It was never "business as usual" for His followers to command and then watch demonic spirits obey. While Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration, remember the disciples' encounter with a father and his son who was being destroyed by demonic spirits?
- F. When we take no authority over the enemy, he can cause terrible things to happen--and then laugh because no one can do anything about it!
- 1. We are all very aware of the problems caused by the enemy: divorce, murder, rape, incest, terrorism, deception, false religion, HIV, cancer, financial reversals, jealousy, pride, arrogance, greed, war....and the list is endless.
 - 2. But think of the problems he causes that we have failed to consider.
 - Sicknesses which appear to be organic can have spiritual roots.
 - a. **Luke 13:11-12 (NIV)** - "And a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.'"
 - b. This spirit of infirmity *mimicked* the symptoms of a physical illness.

3. This is why many believers go to seminar after seminar and attend retreat after retreat—and their marriage is never repaired.
 - a. It's possible to read *His Needs, Her Needs*, by Willard Harley, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*, by John Gray, or *The Five Passages of Marriage*, by Minirth, Newman & Hemfelt—yet the problem is never solved.
 - b. The reason? You are dealing with an attack of the enemy!
4. Why couldn't this woman "straighten up?" People's lives cannot become straight until the force **behind** the problem is addressed. This is why a person can leave a drug rehab center and score again—before they even get home!

G. I have good news: ***you have been given authority over the enemy!***

1. If you are a child of God and filled with His Spirit—Satan should fear ***you!***
2. Remember—scripture states that if you catch a thief in the act of stealing, he must repay seven times the amount of goods that he stole!