

# SPIRITUAL FORCES: THE SPOILS OF WAR

October 22, 2017 | Pastor Keith Jenkins

We continue our Sunday morning sermon series on "Spiritual Forces". Some years ago TD Jakes said: "Never go to war where there are no spoils". The wisdom in this statement is, don't fight and expend energy where there is nothing to be gained.

The truth of the matter is, in every conflict or war, there is always a prize of some sort to be gained. An example of this, is when David fought Goliath. Yes, he fought for the Lord's glory and honor, but there was personal gain.

Listen to 1 Samuel 17:25:

*"So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."*

The spoils promised to the conqueror in this situation were:

- Great riches/wealth
- The king's daughter
- Tax exemption for his father's house

If we are to mobilize to Spiritual Warfare, we need to know what the spoils are; what is to be gained.

**We are the Spoils of War for the Father....** We have been made alive

**"Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, but dead people alive" - CS Lewis**

*Ephesians 2:1-5 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."*

**We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness**

*Colossians 1:13 "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,"*

- He sent Jesus to reconcile us to God
- In the other life, we were held captive
- But he snatched us out of darkness and bondage and placed us in his kingdom
- We are being restored right now; we are under construction as he is making us in his image

*2 Corinthians 5:17-19 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."*

The Holy Spirit is working in us increasingly & progressively so that we walk in greater levels of WHOLENESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, DOMINION/FREEDOM, as our souls (mind/will/emotions are being restored/healed)

**"The most enduring treasures of this conflict are the eternal souls of men"**

Last week Ted Vail re-focused us on the harvest:

- The found must become finders...Seeing the world with fresh vision
- Laborers are needed (Matthew 9:36-38)

Pastor Keith's assumption is that the vast majority of the Church want to engage, but either really don't know how to or fear has immobilized the them.

Paul lays out what is a blueprint:

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23 "Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whatever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!" (The Message)*

## **1. BE INTENTIONAL SERVING AND ADDING VALUE TO PEOPLE**

*"Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have VOLUNTARILY BECOME A SERVANT..." "I've become just about EVERY SORT OF SERVANT there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life"*

- "Servant" (under-rowers on the bottom level of a ship) no strings attached, genuine love
- Give them something, bless them without getting anything in return
- Increase and enhance their lives, lifting and building them up. Encourage them and let your life inspire them
- Earning the right through relationship, just be a genuine friend

**"If people love you, they may be more inclined to hear about the God, you love and serve"**

## **2. BE INTENTIONAL TO INCLUDE EVERYONE. (BE INCLUDERS, NOT EXCLUDERS)**

*"...I have voluntarily become a servant to ANY AND ALL IN ORDER TO REACH A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whatever"*

- God has the nerve to love people I don't like, I don't vote the same as them and I'm not morally compatible with, but he loves them.
- Do I have a greater desire to CORRECT PEOPLE or to CONNECT with them relationally?

#### **FIND COMMON GROUND:**

- Find the 1% you can agree on and give 100% effort to it.
- Christian's usually find the 1% they disagree on and give it 100% of their effort/attention

### **3. ENTER THEIR WORLD, SEE THINGS FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW.**

"...I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ, but I ENTERED THEIR WORLD and tried to experience things from THEIR POINT OF VIEW."

- Entering their world, SAMARIA, "those people". Jesus moved into the "neighborhood" and experienced things from their point of view, this REQUIRES US TO becoming learners/students; it requires humility.
- Without proximity there can be no empathy, you cannot love from a distance.
- As we enter their world we RETAIN OUR IDENTITY in Christ (No Compromise).
- WE MUST BE CONFIDENT in HIM before we can be effective there.
- When I know whose I am and What my purpose is, the world isn't a threat.
- We have to be SINNER FRIENDLY AND SINNER SAFE. Jesus was; it was his reputation.

"Don't make them angry, make them hungry and thirsty". We can then say; "taste and see that the Lord is good".

***Luke 7:34 "...the son of man has come eating and drinking and you say "look a glutton and a drunkard, A FRIEND of tax collectors and SINNERS!"***

Guiding Assumption: Everyone is LOOKING for God. They are looking in all kinds of misguided ways, but looking nonetheless; in fact they are groping!

### **4. JOIN JESUS ON MISSION: SEEK AND SAVE**

"I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!"

***Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."***

This mission is led and motivated by Love. We serve them; we don't look down to them and we find the 1%.

For all of us parents and grandparents, the worst nightmare is a lost child. We will go to any lengths to find them. There are "lost children" around us every day; do we feel the same for His lost children?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what the "spoils of war" mean to you. Also what do you think about this statement; "Never go to war where there are no spoils"? By the way, who or what is the spoils for Father God?
2. Discuss the reconciliation work of God in our lives and also discuss what he is doing in us as he restores us.
3. Based on the blueprint of 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23, we will consider 4 points. Discuss "Be intentional serving and adding value to people".
4. Next discuss; "Be intentional to include everyone". Let's be honest, has this been difficult at any time in your life? What made it difficult and how do we get past these barriers?
5. The third point of discussion is; "Enter their world, see things from their point of view". Don't miss a couple discussion points found under this heading.
6. Lastly, how do we join Jesus on his mission to "seek and save"?