

"Satan Bound By Christ"

(Mark 3:20-35)

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Introduction: "So if the devil is bound, why is there so much..."???

- A. Just fill in the blank.**
- B. War and violence (I received an email this past week from a friend and Christian sister who asked that we pray for "Darkhorse" 3rd Battalion 5th Marines and their families who lost 9 marines in Afghanistan in 4 days, but evidently there has been nothing in the media about this...how often does this occur? But death in the military is treated as "what just happens"...how can anyone say Satan is bound?**
- C. I found it fascinating that the Battalion uses an apocalyptic image for their name...the four horses of the apocalypse are in fact images of suffering and death. But if Satan is bound, why do these things occur?**
- D. But there is also immorality that has reached staggering proportions. Never before have we as a nation taken for granted and are blindly accepting the most blatant forms of immorality. As a nation, we treat these things as nothing and as perfectly normal. Alternative lifestyles are treated as normal as normal can be; and taking the lives of the unborn as an easily given rationale...sin is treated as nothing. So again, how can Satan be bound?**
- E. If there has ever been a day and an age that is most resembling ancient Sodom and Gomorrah, then 21st century United States of America must be it.**
- F. But we don't have to look at broad-scale social ills to wonder about how anyone could claim that Satan is bound. All we have to do is invest in relationships and we will get to know the tremendous individual and very dark storms that even our closest neighbors and even we ourselves can go through. Anxiety, depression, and other serious conditions both physical and psychological plague us and threaten us to give up hope. How can anyone say that Satan is bound?**
- G. And this catalog that I have just presented to you dear Christian is *exactly* what Satan wants you to dwell on. He wants to convince you to lose hope, to believe in the deepest recesses of your heart that he has won, that sin has won the day, he wants to convince you that you must succumb to hopelessness.**
- H. But today on this Lord's Day, the Day of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the proclamation is to be heard loud and clear: this conclusion is a deception, it is authored by the father of lies, the devil...it is his desperate attempt to get you to turn away from faith and to look only at despair.**
- I. We are, however, called to say to the evil one, "get behind me" and remind ourselves that even though we encounter trouble in this life, guess what? This world is still the Lord's! This country is still the Lord's! Our families are still the**

Lord's! And our very lives are still the Lord's. Let's speak the truth and bury the deceptions and falsehoods...and what is the truth? The truth is this: Christ has indeed bound Satan in spite of the trouble that we encounter in this life!

- J. I was visiting a parishioner this past week and this is what I shared with her:
 - #1 We have a mission: faith, hope, and love.**
 - #2 We have a heads up: there will be some form of trouble every day.**
 - #3: We have protection: the Lord gives us the full armor of God so that we can stand against anything!****
- K. But there is only one reason why this true; only one thing that ensures your ability to stand and it is this: Jesus has bound Satan!**

Part I: First we must see that Satan wants us to give Jesus a bad rap...that way, we won't turn to Him.

- A. Mark 3:20: Jesus created a real jam and the disciples couldn't even eat.**
- B. Mark 3:21: When people who knew Jesus saw the ruckus, they concluded that something was wrong with Jesus...they felt He was drawing the wrong kind of attention to Himself. So even family members said, "He is out of his mind."**
- C. One theory is that His exceptional benevolence had put Him into a state of enthusiasm dangerous to the health of body and mind...so his own family wanted to save Jesus from Himself! Get Him home; get Him away from the misplaced attention He was drawing.**
- D. All of this reminds me of contemporary thoughts: Jesus is special, *but*...and people will go out of their way to theorize why they can't confess Him as their Savior.**
- E. We know for a fact that at this point in Mark 3 that his own brothers did not yet believe the pretensions and claims of Jesus (John 7:5).**
- F. Bottom line: people were then, and are now: skeptical, and guess what? Nothing makes Satan more happy...that way people can continue to live without the only source of true and lasting hope: the Lord Jesus Christ!**
- G. But in spite of the stubborn minds and skeptical hearts, many people actually witnessed Jesus healing a man who was demon-possessed. Even the enemies of Christ could not deny they had witnessed a miracle. Jesus was full of power and again, this was undeniable.**
- H. But when people deny the truth and want you to buy into a lie, they get desperate, really desperate...so guess what happened? The enemies of Christ who after seeing the miracle of His healing power, actually accused Jesus of being demon-possessed! Talk about a bad rap!**
- I. Jesus, however, does something amazing: first in all compassion He calls His enemies to come over so that He could minister to them! Jesus loves ALL! But then He**

conducts an amazing example of intellectual genius through demonstrating a *reduction ad absurdum*!

- J. If Jesus was the prince of demons or the epitome of the devil himself as His enemies claimed, why would He be divesting Himself of power by releasing those He was holding in bondage?

Part II: And this is where things get really exciting:

A. In giving this lesson to His enemies, Jesus said at verse 27:

“no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.”

B. What was Jesus saying?

C. Answer:

1. Jesus overpowered the “strong man” = the devil and did so by binding him!
2. Binding means that Christ completely overpowered him and subdued him.
3. And the plundering = the releasing of captives under Satan’s influence and control.
4. When did this binding occur?
 - a. It occurred during the wilderness confrontation in Mark 1:12 & 13.
 - b. It was guaranteed as Jesus described what He saw of Satan:

Luke 10:18: “I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven.”

- c. But for that matter, we could say that it happened when the LORD first gave the promise of the Gospel of Christ in Genesis 3:15 when Christ’s victory over Satan was already pronounced by God...Jesus would crush Satan’s head...imagery for complete and utter DEFEAT!
- d. And for that reason, for this true binding that has taken place Jesus makes this declaration that is PURE Gospel!

Mark 3:28: “all sins will be forgiven the children of men.”

- e. And this is truly what Satan does not want you to hear and believe in...all sins: He wants you to hold on to your most serious sins and say to yourself, “I’m just not sure if God will actually and truly be on my side after THAT one.” But dear Christian, it is true, “all sins will be forgiven the children of men.”

- f. If one has committed the worst of sins...murder, adultery, the greatest deceptions and lies...no matter what your darkest sins may be...Jesus says, "all sins will be forgiven the children of men."
- g. And when this Gospel is proclaimed Satan desperately cries out knowing that it is true; he has been defeated and he has no power over you...and the cross and resurrection of Jesus has sealed your victory forever..."all sins [NOW] will be forgiven [YOU]!"
- h. But don't be frustrated that the Lord makes ONE and only ONE exception to the rule...He does so as a warning for our good. The ONE sin that is the exception is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- i. What is this?

"The sin against the Holy Ghost is committed when, after the Holy Ghost has convinced a person in his heart of the divine truth, that person nevertheless not only rejects the truth he is convinced of, but also blasphemes it." Pieper, Vol. 1, 573

- j. Recall: "blaspheme means "malicious misrepresentation." It's when a person makes a hostile assault on something while making completely untrue and false accusations about that thing.
- k. God makes it clear to a person -- a believer or someone who is just entering the status of believer -- but all a sudden while completely knowing better and completely sinning against conscience, they reject the truth and they attribute to the devil the saving work of the Holy Spirit.
- l. And here is the good news for you: if you are concerned that you've committed this sin, then your CONCERN is proof that you haven't, because the person who commits this sin hates the Lord and has given up their conscience to serve the father of lies, the devil.

Conclusion: Now we want to be as those who stayed hearing our Savior in our Gospel this morning:

- A. Being true hearers and learners = true disciples.
- B. Jesus says we are His true family members!
- C. We are the ones who do "the will of God"...
 - 1. For one reason and one reason only.
 - 2. Jesus has drawn us and performs His will in and through us.
 - 3. By God's gracious hand, He has led us to repent and believe, to turn from our sins, and by faith receive the full pardon of God.
 - 4. Satan is bound and the evidence isn't in the depressing distractions that Satan desperately throws at you; the evidence is in what Christ has done dear Christian! The evidence is in His shed blood that covers your sin; the evidence is

in His victorious resurrection that means all sins...and all means all for those who care...all sins...your every sin has been forgiven...and now you know that the strong man who has tried to get you to live in hopelessness has been bound...by Christ you have been set free to be the people of God; members of God's family...Satan has lost His grip on you...and God will never let you go!