

Mark 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

Analysis

Jesus shifts from defense to offense: 'No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.' The 'strong man' represents Satan; his 'house' is his kingdom; his 'goods' are demon-possessed people. Jesus is the stronger one who binds Satan and plunders his kingdom by liberating captives. The verb 'bind' (δήσῃ) indicates overpowering, restraining. 'Spoil' (διαρπάσῃ) means plunder, seize as victor's spoils. Jesus' exorcisms are acts of conquest, demonstrating kingdom warfare.

Historical Context

Military imagery of binding enemy and plundering his possessions was familiar in ancient warfare. Victorious armies sacked defeated cities, taking inhabitants as slaves and seizing property. Jesus applies this to spiritual realm—His ministry is invasion of Satan's territory, liberating prisoners and demonstrating God's kingdom overthrowing evil's reign. This connects to Isaiah's prophecy of Messiah setting captives free (Isaiah 49:24-25; 61:1). Early church understood evangelism as rescuing people from 'dominion of darkness' into 'kingdom of beloved Son' (Colossians 1:13).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding evangelism as plundering Satan's kingdom affect your gospel urgency?
2. In what ways are you still bound that need Christ's liberating power?
3. What does Jesus' victory over the 'strong man' teach about confidence in witnessing?

Interlinear Text

οὐ δύναται οὐδεὶς τὰ σκεύη τοῦ ἵσχυρὸν εἰσελθὼν
can G1410 No man G3588 goods G3588 a strong man's G2478 enter G1525
G3756 G3762 G4632 G2478 G1525

εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν αὐτοῦ διαρπάσει ἐὰν μὴ πρῶτον τὸν
into G3588 house his and spoil G1437 G3361 first G3588
G1519 G3614 G846 G1283 G4412

ἵσχυρὸν δῆσῃ καὶ τότε τὴν οἰκίαν αὐτοῦ διαρπάσει
a strong man's bind and then G3588 house his and spoil
G2478 G1210 G2532 G5119 G3614 G846 G1283

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:29 (Good): 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.

1 John 4:4 (Parallel theme): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Isaiah 27:1 (Parallel theme): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Isaiah 53:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Colossians 2:15 (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

1 John 3:8 (Parallel theme): He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Isaiah 61:1 (Good): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

John 12:31 (Parallel theme): Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Hebrews 2:14 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Romans 16:20 (Parallel theme): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.