

LSR2, Session 4

Intro

- Focus: Developing ourselves to become more active in the spiritual realm
- Also, preparing our thinking for spiritual experiences we might encounter

Character

- Humility review
 - Humility is the foundation of godly character
 - Perfect antidote to self-centeredness
 - Humility causes you to consider yourself relatively unimportant compared to others
 - Humility is critically important
- Spiritual authority
 - Adam & Eve originally were lords of the earth
 - Gen 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - How does God creating heavens & earth relate to his authority over them?
 - Gen 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’”
 - What does this suggest about our ability to exercise authority?
 - “let them rule over . . . fish . . . birds . . . livestock . . . all the earth . . . all creatures”
 - What does this suggest about man’s original domain?
 - Adam abdicated to Satan, lost dominion
 - Adam abdicated by agreeing with Satan’s perspective
 - Gen 3:17, all Adam’s domain was affected by his sin
 - Ro 8:20-22, creation subjected to frustration, decay, groaning
- Satan had dominion over earth from time of Adam’s fall until Jesus’ crucifixion
 - Jn 12:31, “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”
 - Who was “the prince of this world”?
 - Other times Jesus referred to “the prince of this world”: Jn 14:30; 16:11
 - “world” (Gk *cosmos*): primarily refers to physical universe
- Jesus (as man) paid full penalty for man’s sin
 - 1 Jn 2:2, “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”
 - What is the meaning of Jesus being “the atoning sacrifice for . . . the sins of the whole world”?
 - Atonement: reparation made for an injury or wrong

- Jesus (as man) received all authority in heaven, earth; regained dominion, disarmed the enemy
 - Mt 28:18, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”
 - What does this verse say about Jesus and authority?
 - How much authority does that leave Satan?
 - What did Jesus do to receive it?
 - What is the significance of Jesus, the man, doing this?
 - Eph 1:22, “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”
 - What does this verse say about Jesus and authority?
 - Col 2:15, “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”
 - What does this verse say about Jesus’ authority/dominion?
 - What “powers and authorities”?
 - What does this mean about these beings’ affect on us?
 - After Jesus’ victory on the cross, Satan is now only “god of this age” (2 Co 4:4) and “ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Eph 2:2)
 - If Jesus (as a man) disarmed enemy who deceived Adam, regained dominion Adam lost, and received all authority in heaven and earth, what does that suggest about our authority as believers?
- We have limited authority over our earthly domains, any creatures or beings affecting those domains
 - Ro 5:17, “For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”
 - Who is this talking about?
 - According to this verse, where or when specifically will we reign?
 - Let there be no doubt that you *do* reign in life
 - Your domain: yourself, your family, your business/job, your property
 - Your words produce results because of your authority
 - 1 Ptr 2:9, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
 - How does this phrase (“royal priesthood”) relate to authority?
 - According to the grammar in this verse, when are we to be reigning priests?
 - Where and when do we reign?
 - Mt 6:9-10, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven.”

- What prayer is this from?
- Why did Jesus teach his disciples (and us) to ask God to do his will on earth?
- Extremely important: this prayer includes a legal request or authorization from one sovereign (us) for another sovereign (God) to intervene in our domain!
- Prayer
 - “Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in me and my domain as it is in heaven.”
- Conclusion
 - We have authority over our own domains and humility is essential to its proper use.

Spiritual Development

- Bible is essential to spiritual growth
 - What does God say to us through scripture?
 - 2 Tim 3:16, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
 - “*all* scripture is useful”
 - Mt 4:4 “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
 - The absolute best way to benefit from the Bible is to engage in a Bible reading plan
- Conclusion
 - Regular Bible reading is essential to your spiritual growth.

Spiritual Experiences

- Lk 10:19, “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”
 - What does this verse say about the authority the disciples received?
 - He gave them authority (*exousia*) over the enemy’s power (*dynamis*)
 - What does that mean?
 - Just as we overcome evil with good, we overcome the enemy with authority.
- Mt 10:1, “He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”
 - What does this verse say about the disciples and authority?
 - Important point: This was before Jesus stripped Satan of authority and power at the cross, so Jesus did this while Satan was still ruler of the *cosmos*.
 - Do you have the same authority Jesus gave his disciples?
 - Is earth still Satan’s domain today?

- Key points regarding evil spirits
 - Non-Christians may be demon-influenced or demon-possessed
 - demonic influence: demon entices or persuades the person
 - demonic possession: the demon has control, violates person's will
 - Christians may become demon-influenced, but not demon-possessed
 - Driving out demons is a legal action; you command them to leave
 - People authorize demons to influence or possess them by engaging in evil practices
- Perspective
 - I believe the veil between the physical and spiritual realms is *not* impenetrable
 - I believe a time is coming when that veil between the realms will seem to tear
- The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the existence of your authority and the feasibility of you driving demons out
- Conclusion
 - Jesus defeated the enemy and gave you authority to overcome all of his power.

Blessing

- May the flow of faith and power from Jesus to you increase every day.

Daily Activities

- Read one of the following passages and visualize the scene as you read it. Visualize the key characters and what they did as described in the passage. Meditate on the incident and record any insight you receive in your journal.

Mk 1:21-28; Mk 5:1-20; Mk 7:24-30; Mk 9:14-27; Acts 16:16-18

- **The Truth About Evil Spirits.** Meditate on one of the following points and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth about them (Jn 16:13).
 - **Evil spirits are shrewd.** Just as Satan knew how to trick Eve (Gen 3:1), demons and other fallen beings know exactly how to trick us. It's foolish to even talk with them to gain some alleged benefit.
 - **Evil spirits know vast amounts of information** about us, our loved ones and history because they've been around since the beginning of time. They also can present themselves to us as anyone. Therefore, trying to contact the dead or the spirit realm through seances, Ouija boards or other means is extremely dangerous.
 - **Evil spirits are extremely deceptive.** Satan is an expert liar and can appear even as an angel of light (Jn 8:44; 2 Co 11:14). His demons and fallen angels often portray themselves as helpful so they can gain people's trust then deceive them.
 - **Jesus and Satan are not equals.** Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt 28:18), is head over every power and authority (Col 2:10; Php 2:9-11), disarmed powers and authorities (Col 2:15), and will send Satan and all who reject God to eternal torment (Rev 20:10, 15).