

Unseen Realm: Session 33- Jesus' Recruitment of Human "Sons of God" to Battle

NT Believers as the Sons of God (children of God)

^{ESV} **Luke 20:34 ¶** And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for **they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.**

Jesus (the Son of God), the disciples (sons of God) and the Advancement of the Kingdom

^{ESV} **Matthew 11:1** When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. ² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you **the one who is to come**, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "**Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.**" ⁷ ¶ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the **kingdom of heaven** is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the **kingdom of heaven** has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

^{NLT} **Matthew 11:12** And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the **Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.**

^{ESV} **Matthew 12:22 ¶** Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, **by whom do your sons cast them out?** Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the **kingdom of God** has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a **strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.**

^{ESV} **Mark 9:38** ¶ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." (Mk. 9:38 ESV)

BACKGROUND TEXTS for Exorcisms in 2nd Temple Period

7Then the young man questioned the angel and said to him, "Brother Azariah, what medicinal value is there in the fish's heart and liver, and in the gall?" 8He replied, "As for the fish's heart and liver, you must burn them to make a smoke in the presence of a man or woman afflicted by a demon or evil spirit, and every affliction will flee away and never remain with that person any longer.... 17When you enter the bridal chamber, take some of the fish's liver and heart, and put them on the embers of the incense. An odor will be given off; 18the demon will smell it and flee, and will never be seen near her any more. Now when you are about to go to bed with her, both of you must first stand up and pray, imploring the Lord of heaven that mercy and safety may be granted to you. Do not be afraid, for she was set apart for you before the world was made...."

Tobit 6:7–8, 17–18

Josephus, Antiquities 8.2.5 §§45–49

45God also enabled him to learn that skill which expels demons, which is a science useful and sanative to men. He composed such incantations also by which distempers are alleviated. And he left behind him the manner of using exorcisms, by which they drive away demons, so that they never return, 46and this method of cure is of great force unto this day; for I have seen a certain man of my own country, whose name was Eleazar, releasing people that were demoniacal in the presence of Vespasian, and his sons, and his captains, and the whole multitude of his soldiers. The manner of the cure was this: —47He put a ring that had a root of one of those sorts mentioned by Solomon to the nostrils of the demoniac, after which he drew out the demon through his nostrils; and when the man fell down immediately, he abjured him to return into him no more, making still mention of Solomon, and reciting the incantations which he composed. 48And when Eleazar would persuade and demonstrate to the spectators that he had such a power, he set a little way off a cup or basin full of water, and commanded the demon, as he went out of the man, to overturn it, and thereby to let the spectators know that he had left the man; 49and when this was done, the skill and wisdom of Solomon was shown very manifestly: for which reason it is, that all men may know the vastness of Solomon's abilities, and how he was beloved of God, and that the extraordinary virtues of every kind with which this king was endowed may not be unknown to any people under the sun for this reason, I say, it is that we have proceeded to speak so largely of these matters.

Darrell L. Bock and Gregory J. Herrick, Jesus in Context: Background Readings for Gospel Study (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005), 95.

^{NET} **Matthew 16:18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

^{ESV} **Matthew 10:1** ¶ And he called to him his **twelve disciples** and **gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.** ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ ¶ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**' ⁸ **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.** You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

^{ESV} **Luke 10:1** ¶ After this the Lord appointed **seventy-two others** and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ **Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'** ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the **kingdom of God** has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. ¹³ ¶ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ ¶ "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me." ¹⁷ ¶ The **seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"** ¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw **Satan fall like lightning from heaven.** ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you **authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.** ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

^{ESV} **Acts 19:11 ¶** And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the **evil spirits came out of them.** ¹³ Then some of the **itinerant Jewish exorcists** undertook to **invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits**, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, **"Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"** ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ **So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.**

Do the evil spirits recognize YOU as a child of God with Kingdom authority?