



UNSEEN REALM

April 7, 2024

The Unseen Realm

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

Big Idea: The unseen powers of this world are alive and well.

The Challenge: The Western Church has traditionally embraced a “closet naturalist” view. However, Jesus came to do battle with the unseen realm. He came to set the captives free, to release them from spiritual bondage so that we would have life to the fullest in Him.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: “Jesus, I pray that your Church would see, understand, and embrace the reality of Spiritual realm and the role of deliverance ministry. To see it as part of the sanctification process in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the hopes of setting the captives free. As we seek to better understand, would you provide the peace that passes all understanding.”

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Naturalism is the belief that everything arises from natural properties and causes, and supernatural or spiritual explanations are excluded or discounted. Paul makes it clear to the church in Ephesus that our fight is not against flesh or blood, but powers and principalities (Eph 6:12)
 - What has been your theology regarding the Spirit Realm? What has been your experience of the Spirit realm? Are they congruent with one another?
 - How does Eph 6:12 change or reaffirm your perspective on how we should be living out our lives?
- 2) Syncretism is amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought. In other parts of the world (like in Guatemala), these are often overt. However, in North America, these are more hidden and often hard to pick out.
 - How have you seen syncretism in our western culture? In the Western Church?
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your life that you may inadvertently be opened to syncretism? Where is He leading you?
- 3) In reading Luke 13, we are told of a woman who had been bound by power of darkness for 18 years and consequently had a physical deformity. Jesus heals her and calls her “A daughter of Abraham”, suggesting that she was a faithful covenant follower. The church has often spoken of deliverance as a salvation issue (once saved, Christians do not deal with demon possession) rather than a sanctification issue (once saved, this may be part of the sanctification journey of the believer).
 - What has been your perception of deliverance? Have you seen it as a sanctification or salvation issue?
 - How does Luke 13 (and other examples) change or confirm that perception?
 - As you look over the healing ministry in the New Testament of both Jesus, Paul, and others, what do you see as the common thread? How they interacted with those who

were oppressed? What do you notice about how they interacted with the demonic forces?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the fears, uncertainties, or hesitations you have when it comes to deliverance.
- 4) This is not a fair fight. The battle has been won as Jesus' blood covers all sin and sets the captives free. He who the son sets free is free indeed (John 8:36). The cross has defeated the power of the enemy, and the blood of Jesus breaks any curse and binds any stronghold. This is the purpose of any deliverance ministry.
- How has our culture shaped our understanding of the purpose deliverance ministry?
 - What are some of the challenges you are having with this topic?
 - Read Romans 8:38. How should this change or affirm our perspective of deliverance ministry?