

# Strategy, Tactics & Your Unseen Adversary

## *Blessings & Curses*

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **May 14, 2023**



We have not adequately trained the Church for the conflict in which we called to engage. Most of us are not going to serve in the military on the front lines around the world. But all of us, as Christ-followers, have an inherent adversary, and if we're not trained in the tactics to flourish, we'll be overwhelmed time and time again. We see that happening around us—a culture capitulating to ungodliness, immorality, and darkness because God's people do not have the appropriate training to know and implement the strategies and the tactics to help us flourish. So, we're taking a little exploratory journey in Scripture to open our eyes to some things that will help us live more triumphant lives.

### I. ANOINTING & BLESSING

Mark 10:16 *And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

**Anoint**, *definition* — Consecrate, make holy, dedicate to God — Often involves oil

Acts 10:38 *...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

#### Saul/Paul

Acts 9:15 *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! **This man is my chosen instrument** to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."*

- 1. In what ways can a biblical worldview help societies flourish and thrive? In what ways does a secular worldview diminish societies?**
- 2. How can you begin to intentionally invite the Lord into the midst of your day-to-day lives? What does this look like in your home? Your workplace? Your social circle?**

### II. BLESSINGS & CURSES

- Many Christians who should be enjoying blessings are actually enduring curses.
- Sources
- Fallacy of Dichotomy Between O.T. and N.T.

Romans 1:17–18 <sup>17</sup>*For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."* <sup>18</sup>*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men...*

- 3. What misconceptions do you have about the power of both blessings and curses over your life?**

### III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A CURSE

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15, 47-48 <sup>1</sup>*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.* <sup>2</sup>*All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God ...*

<sup>15</sup>*However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you...*

<sup>47</sup>*Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity,*

<sup>48</sup>*therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.*

#### Individually

Genesis 4:11–12 (NIV84®) (Cain)

<sup>11</sup>*"Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.* <sup>12</sup>*When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."*

## Nations

Malachi 3:8–9<sup>8</sup> *“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings.<sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.”*

Jeremiah 44:22–23<sup>22</sup> *“When the Lord could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things you did, **your land became an object of cursing and a desolate waste without inhabitants**, as it is today.<sup>23</sup> Because you have burned incense and have sinned against the Lord and have not obeyed him or followed his law or his decrees or his stipulations, this disaster has come upon you, as you now see.”*

4. **In what ways has our society yielded the field to ungodliness? What effect has this had on our children, schools, workplaces, etc.?**

## IV. FREEDOM FROM CURSES

Proverbs 26:2 *Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.*

Galatians 3:13–14<sup>13</sup> *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”<sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

1 Peter 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

Matthew 8:16–17<sup>16</sup> *When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.<sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.”*

Isaiah 53:3–6<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

## Repent, Renounce, Release

Colossians 2:13–15<sup>13</sup> *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,<sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

5. **When was a time God delivered you from something? What was the outcome and how did you recognize your deliverance?**
6. **How would you help someone who is struggling to believe and accept the true freedom given through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross?**

## PRAYER

### Benediction

2 Chronicles 30:27 *The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place.*

**“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”**