

Binding & Loosing

Matthew 16:8-19

“But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? ¹⁰ Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? ¹¹ How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? - but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ¹² Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

We have passed the halfway point in our study from the book “Deliverance from Demonic Oppression.” In our studies on “**deliverance,**” we have seen the origin of Satan and demons, we have seen how they work and possess the lost person and oppress the Christian, we have looked at how we might gain and maintain deliverance in our own lives, and the power of intercessory prayer in the lives of others.

We need to understand that the devil may be the opposite of God, but he is not God's equal. He is not omnipotent. In fact, the devil has no real power.

Jesus made this statement in John 10:10, "The thief's (Satan's) purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." **The truth is - the devil has no right to have any power.** All he has are his **abilities.** The *abilities* he uses against the creation of God are *deception* and *thievery.* **He lies and steals.** A **thief does not have to be strong to steal.** He can be *scrawny* and *weak* and still be the greatest thief the world has ever known. **All he has to do is wait until there is no one home.**

That is what the devil does. He preys on people who are "not home" **spiritually.** He *stalks those who do not believe he is real,* because he knows they will not be on guard against him. **He lurks behind Christians who believe he is real but leave themselves open to his oppression.** He sets traps of temptation and deception. In fact, 2 Timothy 2:26 tells us backslidden Christians are in "the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

Satan is subtle. He is a **liar** and a **sower of doubt.** He is the *enemy of all righteousness.*

In Acts 13:10 Paul confronted Elymas, the sorcerer, who had tried to thwart the deputy's hearing and responding to the Gospel, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?" **That is exactly what the devil does.** He **perverts.** He *twists the truth, mixes it with lies* and *injects it with doubt.* **He is our enemy.**

In this study, we are going to look at "**Binding and Loosing.**"

In Matthew 16:18-19 the Scripture declares that Jesus has given us power to bind and loose in reference to Satan and his cohorts. The context of this promise is in connection with Peter's declaration concerning Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Now, notice how Jesus answered, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **This**

passage of Scripture has been preached many different ways, and then simply skipped over as if it were not in the Bible. But to understand it, we must understand it in light of the *setting* in which it was given.

What is the immediate context of the authority to bind and loose? The immediate preceding phrase is: "And the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it." Now, to *what*, or *whom*, was Jesus making reference? The simple, yet obvious answer is: *the church!!* **In other words, the church is given complete authority over the "gates of hell."** The Amplified Bible translates verse 18 this way, "The gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it - or be strong to its detriment, or hold out against it." Jesus pictured the church as *militant*. Nothing can stop it - *not even the forces of Satan!!*

With that truth in mind, it is easy to understand that the *power* to *bind* and *loose* in regard to *Satan* is described as "the keys of the kingdom of heaven." The word for "kingdom" is the Greek word "basileia" (bas-il-i-ah) which means "to rule." This same truth is shown to us in Colossians 1:13 where we are told that when we were saved, God "delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." The Greek word for "power" is the word "exousia" (ex-oo-see-ah) and it means "authority." **It is the promise of God's Word that those who are saved rule with Christ now.** This same truth is seen in Romans 5:17, "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Hallelujah!! Our God has promised that we shall "reign," or *rule*, as *kings* in life - now.

How could we do that apart from being able to bind the power of the devil, and to loose that which he has already made captive? And that is exactly what Jesus is saying here in Matthew 16.

Child of God, we need to wake up and realize that we have been given much more authority than we have ever imagined! It is no longer a matter of prayer by which we cry out, "Oh, God, please come

and do something about this awful devil that is giving me such a hard time." But it is a matter of rising up in the power of the name of Jesus and telling the devil what he has to do!!

What is the meaning of the phrase "shall be bound in heaven ... shall be loosed in heaven"? Williams, the Bible translator, points out for us that the verb form is the perfect passive participle, so the reference is to things in a state of having been already forbidden or permitted. This tells us that whatever is bound or loosed by the believer is done on the basis that it is already done "in heaven" by the Lord himself!

What is it, then, that the Lord has already bound and which he has given us power to bind again? The answer is found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:29, "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." The context of this passage finds Jesus casting out demons. His authority for doing this is challenged by the religious authorities. They accuse Him of doing it by the power of the devil himself. Jesus is explaining that He is able to control demon spirits and make them obey him because He has already bound the strong man - Satan. The fact that the demons obey Him is evidence of Satan being bound.

Satan is already bound "in heaven" - by heaven's power. His power is broken. The key is given to us. We have power over him, too. Glory!

The Greek word for "bind" in this passage is "deo" (deh-o), and it means, "to fasten or tie" - as with chains, as an animal tied to keep it from straying. This is glorious! When Satan is bound he is made inoperable in our lives! He loses his ability to act against us!

Why is this so? Now listen carefully, when we use our authority to bind Satan on earth it is even as he is already bound in heaven. What does that mean? It simply means that Jesus has already done the "dirty work" for us, all we have to do is exercise our authority!!!

Satan has his "strong men" appointed over nations, cities, churches, homes and individuals. God is showing us that these "strong men" have *already* been *defeated* and *bound* by *heaven's power*. Therefore, we have this truth is shown for us in 1 John 3:8b, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

Now, listen carefully, God has given to us the "keys of the kingdom." What is the "key" to growth and victory in the church of the living God? The answer is this - *there is power to rule over the forces of darkness*. We do not have to pray for it. The battle has been won in heaven; *we are to bind on earth* what has *already been bound in heaven*.

What, then, does the *loosing* refer to? The *loosing* is *setting the captives free!* Through the *authority* that *God has given His children the captives are released from the bonds of enslavement,* which Satan has put about them.

The Greek word translated "loose" in Matthew 16 is "luo," and it means "to loose anything tied or fastened; to loose one bound; to set free." This is the same word used in Luke 13:11-12, "Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."

When the ruler of the synagogue became angry over this deliverance because it was done on the Sabbath, Jesus answered in verses 15-16, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it - for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

Child of God, the victory over Satan and demonic attacks has already won by Jesus. As far as heaven is concerned every captive is loosed! The principle is the same in salvation. **Jesus has already provided for every man's salvation.** But, why are people still lost? The blood must be applied by every man. **Every man who, by faith, applies the blood of Jesus Christ on his life is saved.** Those who refuse or neglect to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will be eternally lost. In like manner, those who refuse or neglect to accept their birthright of deliverance will be bound in this life.

If you have never been saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. I confess I have authority over the power of Satan in my life. I confess I am “more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.