

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Text: Luke 17:20-37

Plain Truth

Jesus didn't come to _____ governments, but to _____ evil, _____ sin, and _____ the dead.

1. The King has _____ – And the King's people are empowered to _____ the _____!
2. We are in a battle with _____ and _____.
3. The Culture flippantly _____ the _____, yet she is the _____ of _____, and the _____ of the world.

April 14 & 15, 2018

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Life Group Lesson

Week of April 15

God's story takes a people who *are no people* and makes them His very own. In slavery God's people become numerous and under-the-radar—apart from the accolade and attention of this world—they become a mighty nation whose King is God. In an incredible exodus, His people depart for a land they call their own where God lives among them. The assignment: to drive out the enemy – opposing inhabitants of the land who wage war against the living God.

Israel's Old Testament story points to God's ultimate redemption of the world. Just as God sent a mediator when He called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, God sent His Anointed One, Jesus Christ, to lead enslaved sons and daughters out of the bondage of sin. Just as God raised up faithful men and women to lead Israel, God raises up faithful individuals today who will carry His message and equip others to go behind enemy lines and conquer territory for Christ.

Read Luke 17:20-37

When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the coming Kingdom, Jesus said: “The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It's over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you” (Luke 17:20b-21). Standing there before them was the promised One (Deuteronomy 18:15). But most of the religious leaders refused to listen to Jesus. Instead of believing, they demanded a sign.

1. Read both Luke 11:29-30 and Matthew 12:38-41. What sign does Jesus give the people and how is this ‘sign’ still significant to us today?

What does this sign have to do with going behind enemy lines?

We are not fighting flesh-and-blood enemies (see Ephesians 6:12) and enemy attacks are most often unannounced—subtle, strong and secretive. But while forces of evil are quietly at work deluding the minds of unbelievers (and often distracting the mission of believers), God's Kingdom can also go ‘under-the-radar’ and gain ground for Christ in stealth missions of love.

2. In what ways do you see the *true* Church – fully devoted, fully surrendered, sold-out followers of Jesus Christ – faithfully going into enemy territory and gaining ground for the Lord? Why is it important to spur one-another on to action?

Like good soldiers we must be ready for marching orders at any point. We must report for duty daily and learn from our Commander how to recognize deceptive ploys of opposing forces. You may think: ‘I have plenty of time.’ And while God is patient and merciful, we do not know how much time we have. One day God will shut the door just like He did when Noah built the ark (Genesis 7:13-16, Luke 17:26-27).

3. Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord? If not, think about what is keeping you from entering the ark of safety (Christ Jesus). Read the following passages. How is the Lord speaking to your heart?

Isaiah 55:6-7

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

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