

The Clash of the Kingdoms

Read: Luke 11:14-26; John 8:32; Phil. 2:10-11; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:24; 2 Cor. 4:4; 10:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; James 5:16; 1 John 3:8.

1. Steve spoke of the Kingdom of God invading the world with goodness. Was this a helpful analogy for you?
2. What lessons can we learn from Luke 11:14-26 about the clash of God's Kingdom and the kingdom of darkness?
3. Author/theologian Brian McLaren said that Jesus' main opposition came not from dirty personal demons crouching in darkness, but rather from dirty systems of power and violence operating in powerful people in the broad daylight. In which way do we witness systemic evil hiding beneath religious robes and royal crowns, in temples and in palaces, in the gospels?
4. 'Groupthink' is a psychological/sociological term referring to the phenomenon that occurs within a group of people in which the desire for harmony or conformity in the group results in an irrational or dysfunctional decision-making outcome. Can you think of any examples from our world where such "groupthink" has been terribly destructive? Might Paul have been referring to forces more transpersonal when he wrote to the Ephesians (6:12)?
5. If God has won the "cosmic battle" why is Satan so active in our world?
6. Read 2 Cor. 10:3-4. (Read in a few versions, including Message). What is Paul saying here? What is its practical application? What are our weapons? What worldly "weapons" are we sometimes tempted to use in spiritual warfare?