

## **BECOMING THE MILITANT CHURCH**

### **Pastor Katy Reeves**

Militant=combative and aggressive in support of a political or social cause, typically favoring extreme, violent or confrontational methods; aggressive, violent, belligerent, bellicose, vigorous, forceful, active, fierce, combative, pugnacious (eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight), radical, extremist, extreme, zealous, fanatical...

Jesus talked about the militant Church in Matthew 11:12.

- It is one of those Scriptures that just reading it at a glance is hard to understand what Jesus is talking about.
- So we are going to break down the key words and see what the original language is telling us.

#### **Matthew 11:12**

**From the days of John, the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force.**

- The word that is translated ‘**from**’ comes from the Greek word ‘**apo**’
- Its definition is ‘from or away from’
- Thayer’s Greek Lexicon implies ‘of separation; of departing; fleeing; removing; expelling; throwing, etc’
- Also averting; loosening; liberating; ransoming; preserving...
- This is where it gets real interesting—it also says ‘of distance of Order of Rank’...

Notice that there’s a distinction between the days BEFORE John the Baptist and the days OF John the Baptist.

- Jesus is telling us that the times are changing...
- Listen to the militant language of these words—
- Separation
- Departing
- Fleeing
- Removing
- Expelling
- Throwing
- Loosening
- Liberating

- Ransoming
- Preserving
- Distance of Order of Rank

And Jesus is also telling the rebel spirits that the times are changing:

- Jesus declared that the distance of Order of Rank has changed.
- The rebel spirits are being expelled; removed and thrown out of the positions as rulers over the earth that they stole from Adam and Eve at the tree incidence.
- Mankind has been ransomed; liberated and preserved by the blood of Jesus.
- There is now a distinct separation between the Kingdom of Heaven and the world system that is run by the rebel spirits.

Kingdom of Heaven comes from the Greek word 'basileia' and it means 'kingdom; sovereignty; royal power; authority; rule-dominion...

- Kingdom of Heaven literally means 'the rule of God'.
- Jesus came preaching about the Rule of God.
- He was talking about Eden and the earth as it was back in the beginning when time began.
- Before the Fall of Mankind and the coup of the Adversary and his rebel forces.
- The Gospel--Unconditional authority restored back to mankind!

Everywhere that Jesus went He manifested the Rule of God—How God runs the earth...

- He made demons flee.
- He liberated the captives.
- He healed the sick.
- He raised the dead.
- He showed the people the distinction between God's Rule and the world's system.

And these words have always been puzzling – 'has been suffering violence'...

- The Greek word for this translation is 'biazo'
- It is a verb and it means 'I use force; violence; suffer violence; force my way; come forward violently; pass...

- Also, ‘to use power to forcibly seize, laying hold of something with positive aggressiveness.
- Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by violence; carried by a storm, in other words, a share in the heavenly Kingdom is sought for with the most ardent zeal and the intensest exertion.

BEFORE John the Baptist the Adversary ruled the earth and there was nothing mankind could do about it.

- All folks knew was this present darkness; the gods of this world system had dominion.
- But then at the fullness of time here came John...
- He was the voice of one crying out in this present darkness—from the wilderness...
- “Hey! Listen up! Messiah is coming! And He’s bringing His Kingdom with Him!
- The Jews knew what He was talking about—Messiah and His Kingdom!
- They wanted to live in His Kingdom and so that’s why they came to John to be baptized and do what they needed to do to enter the Kingdom.
- It was a fight to enter the Kingdom—because Jesus hadn’t yet died or rose again.
- It was a battle that the people had to fight in their flesh, because Holy Spirit hadn’t arrived yet.

That’s why Jesus told them, “**and the violent have been seizing it by force**”.

- That Greek word translated ‘violent’ is ‘**biastes**’ and it means ‘a forceful, violent man; one who is in eager pursuit!’
- Also, positive assertiveness; used of the believer living in faith!
- God’s inworked persuasions guiding and empowering them to act forcefully—or fired up by God to act by His revelation; striving to obtain its privileges with the utmost eagerness and effort.

This word is talking about a Christian!

- We are talking about becoming the militant church.
- Those folks who want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven are violent.
- They are fired up; they are forceful; they are in eager pursuit of the ways of God.

- Jesus is talking about folks who saw the distinction between the Rule of God and this present darkness and they are coming after the Kingdom—violently pursuing entrance.
- They are not backing down.
- They are going after God with all they've got.

The disciple of Christ must strive to obtain the privileges of the Kingdom with the utmost eagerness and effort.

- They must be intentional.
- Because our God is intentional.
- The Greek word translated 'by force' is the verb 'harpazo' and means 'I seize; snatch, obtain by robbery; seize by force; snatch up suddenly and decisively—like someone seizing bounty; to take by an open display of force (not covertly or secretly).
- Who are we robbing? – The Adversary and the rebel forces that have arrayed themselves against our God!
- We are taking back Kingdom territory that was stolen from mankind.
- How do we do this?

1. We live a lifestyle of INTENTIONAL evangelism.
2. Our life-quote: "All of my living and all of my dying-from this day to that—I will live for You, Jesus!"
3. Our priority every single day is to represent the Kingdom well.
4. That means that the first Person you talk to when your eyes pop open is the Lord.
5. You find out what the days priorities are for you and when you walk out your door you've intentionally set your mind to find someone to seize for the Kingdom.
6. God is saying to us, "You go and I'll show; recognize the need and then meet the need."
7. This is Kingdom heir mentality.
8. Understand that we live in an upside-down Kingdom—everything works in reverse.
9. Love is a weapon of mass destruction.
10. Love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.
11. Servants are kings in the Kingdom.
12. The first are last and the last are first.
13. Give away and you will get more.
14. Don't believe what you see, believe what God says.

15. Cast out demons.
16. Pray for the sick and see them get well. [When pain moves or increases after prayer it indicates spiritual activity. Pray again and deal with the spirits.]
17. Recognize the enemy and remember that 99% of warfare is to distract you from your purpose.
18. When fear tries to seize you remember that it is not who you are to be afraid—it is a spirit of fear sent as a pre-emptive strike to stop what you are supposed to do.

### **Matthew 11:12**

From the days of John, the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force.

- Understand that times have changed—you are the one with the unconditional authority in the earth.
- Understand that Jesus has taken back the earth for mankind and He expects you to rule your world.
- Understand that He expects you to take back Kingdom territory by manifesting the goodness of Yehovah everywhere you go.
- Understand who your enemy is and how they operate.
- Understand the blood of the Lamb; the word of your testimony and the significance of not loving your life even unto death.
- As you do these things you will find yourself becoming the militant church of Jesus Christ~!