

UNPICKING THE PANDEMIC THIEF'S POCKET

Part 1 – Resistance Day

The pandemic has affected different PEOPLE in different WAYS and to varying DEGREES.

... But, no doubt, Covid has left a CONSIDERABLE RESIDUE.

* “We’ve all been on the same OCEAN; but we’ve not all been in the same BOAT.”

→ *What are your provisional thoughts about how the pandemic affected people, particularly spiritually? Why have some people been affected more than others? How did it especially affect you?*

→ *‘We may have been on the same ocean; but we’ve not necessarily all been in the same boat.’ Discuss!*

THE LOSS

* We’ve all LOST things ... Things that were RIGHTFULLY OURS have been STOLEN.

* The Enemy has been having a FIELD-DAY.

* Things we once took for GRANTED have been THREATENED.

* Some of the MOMENTUM we had before has been LOST.

* The GROUND beneath our feet used to be SOLID, but has now become rather more WOBBLY.

→ *What sorts of things have people lost? What does it mean to say that the ground beneath our feet has become wobbly? Did you lose momentum? If so, where and how?*

THE PANDEMIC THIEF

* The Enemy is an OPPORTUNIST: a shameless, unapologetic EXPLOITER of CRISIS.

* As an IMITATOR rather than a CREATOR, he’ll jump on the back of any BANDWAGON to further his own AGENDA.

* If he could STIR it up, LEVERAGE it, DIVIDE people over it, he did ... No wonder we feel BEATEN UP.

→ *In what ways did the Opportunist exploit the pandemic? What ‘bandwagons’ did he jump on? What in all that did he cause / initiate and what did he exploit / leverage? How has it made life more difficult for Christians?*

* John 10:10a: STEALING is what he DOES & who he IS.

* John 10:10b: The THIEF may be in the business of STEALING; but rest assured, the Lord is in the business of RESTORING, REPAIRING & REDEEMING LIFE.

* One of the Thief’s greatest skills is DISTRACTION, DECEPTION & SUBTLETY, such that it’s HAPPENING and you don’t even KNOW IT.

* And one day the TRUTH DAWNS and you realise you’ve been BURGLERD.

→ *How and what does the Enemy ‘steal?’ Why? What do you personally feel you’ve ‘lost’ as a result of the pandemic?*

THE THEOLOGY: Our Position in Christ

1. We are on the VICTORY side.

2. We are CHILDREN of the KING with a royal INHERITANCE.

3. The DEVIL is UNDER our FEET.

4. As Christians, we have all the POWER and AUTHORITY we need to RESIST the Thief.

→ *If you’re honest, have you lost sight of some of that over the last year or so? How would your Christian life change if you lived in the fulness of that positional reality?*

Romans 8:31,35-39

In the MIDDLE of ALL THESE THINGS, you are, by position, MORE than a CONQUEROR in Christ.

KEY: Your STATUS as a conqueror doesn’t CHANGE with the CIRCUMSTANCES and it DIDN’T change during the pandemic.

→ *Did it feel as though that status changed during lockdown? How is it possible to be more than a conqueror when it seems all your circumstances are conspiring against you? What did the Enemy use then (or does he use generally) to distract you from your position in Christ?*

Colossians 2:13-15

Christ’s victory on the Cross was CRUSHING, OVERWHELMING & COMPLETE ... It totally, utterly & permanently DISARMED the Enemy and ALL the other spiritual rulers & authorities.

The Enemy has absolutely NO LEGAL RIGHT to steal from you, whatsoever.

→ *What does it mean to say his authority is ‘sham?’ How does he try to convince you it’s actually real? If you truly realised the Enemy had no genuine authority over you, what could change in your life?*

James 4:7

If you try to resist UNSUBMITTED, you’re on dangerous ground.

→ *What does it mean to try to resist ‘unsubmitted’ and why is that dangerous?*

But if you’re truly submitted to God, you have UNLIMITED RESISTING POWER.

→ *Are you truly submitted? Are there any areas where you’re not? How might that explain where the Enemy is gaining his victories over you?*