

Jesus Still Dominates in the Battle Against Demonic Strongholds

As I studied the Gospels, it became clear to me that Jesus understood well the principle of reaching the poor. He avoided the major cities, the rich, the famous and the powerful, concentrating His ministry on the poor, laboring class.

If we reach the poor, we have touched the masses of Asia.

The Right Weapons

The battle against hunger and poverty is really a spiritual battle, not a physical or social one as secularists would have us believe. It is through the love of Christ that we will effectively win the war against disease, hunger, injustice and poverty in Asia.

To look into the sad eyes of a hungry child or see the wasted life of a drug addict is to witness the evidence of Satan's hold on this world. All bad things, whether in Asia or the West, are his handiwork. He is the ultimate enemy of mankind, and he will do everything within his considerable power to kill and destroy human beings. Fighting this powerful enemy with physical weapons alone is like fighting an armored tank with stones.

I can never forget one of the more dramatic encounters we had with these demonic powers. It was a hot and unusually humid day in 1970. We were preaching in a place called the "desert of kings."

As was our practice before a street meeting, my seven co-workers and I stood in a circle to sing and clap hands to the rhythm of Christian folk songs. A sizeable crowd gathered, and

I began to speak in Hindi, the local language. Many heard the Good News for the first time and eagerly took our Gospels and tracts to read.

One young man came up to me and asked for a book to read. As I talked to him, I sensed in my spirit that he was hungry to know God. When we got ready to climb aboard our ministry van, he asked to join us.

As the van lurched forward, he cried and wailed. "I am a terrible sinner," he shrieked. "How can I sit among you?" With that, he started to jump from the moving van. We held on to him and forced him to the floor to prevent injury.

That night, he stayed at our base and the next morning joined us for the prayer meeting. While we were praising and interceding, we heard a sudden scream. The young man was lying on the ground, tongue lolling out of his mouth, his eyes rolled back.

We knew immediately he was demon-possessed. We gathered around him and began taking authority over the forces of hell as they spoke through his mouth.

"We are 74 of us.... For the past seven years we have made him walk barefoot all over India. He is ours. ..." They spoke on, blaspheming and cursing, challenging us and our authority.

But as three of us prayed, the demons could not keep their hold on the young man. They came out when we commanded them to leave in the name of Jesus.

Winning the War

Sundar was delivered and gave his life to Jesus. Later, he went to Bible college and since then, the Lord has enabled him to teach and preach to thousands of people about Christ. Several Indian worship places have been established as a result of his remarkable ministry—all from a man many people

would have locked up in an insane asylum.

This kind of miracle kept me going from village to village for those seven years of itinerant preaching and our lives read like pages from the book of Acts. {eoa}

K.P. Yohannan, *founder and director of GFA World (Gospel for Asia) and Metropolitan of Believers Eastern Church (BEC), has written more than 250 books, including Revolution in World Missions, an international bestseller with more than four million copies in print. He and his wife, Gisela, have two grown children, Daniel and Sarah, who both serve the Lord with their families.*

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