

[The Kingdom of God](#)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Mathew 12, 11

The world suffers violence everywhere. And we understand it perfectly. There is violence everywhere around us, wherever we turn, whenever we switch on the news, whenever we flip through a magazine, or whatever movie we watch, there is nothing but violence, violence and violence. But what does the verse "the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence." Didn't the same Jesus who spoke the above sentence told us to turn the other cheek when someone slapped us in one? What does He mean by this? It sounds as though it was not like Jesus to speak this. But surely Jesus meant every word of it. Only in the previous chapter Jesus said,

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Matt. 10, 34"

On earth when Jesus was going around doing good and preaching, the theme of His message always was the Kingdom of God. Some of His disciples expected to establish another strong kingdom of Israel with His supernatural powers, since their land is enslaved by the Roman Empire. But Jesus was very clear and certain about His mission. He knew He had come to establish the Kingdom of God in the hearts of men. And this means to drive out the enemy who has taken control of man's heart deceitfully by planting the seed of sin ages ago in the garden of Eden. Since Jesus defeated all the works of the devil in the cross, satan knows he is in a losing battle. Nevertheless he will not so easily let go his territory which he has so long occupied illegally.

This is a real battle, for the Kingdom of God to be enthroned in the hearts of man, the kingdom of this earth has to be cast aside completely. One completely cancels out the other. Jesus very clearly states, "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me." John 14,30.

To His believers, Jesus has clearly drawn a strategy of how to inherit the Kingdom of God. And His strategies are exactly opposite to that of this earth. The strategies of this violent battle are strangely paradoxical. When you are accused, Jesus shows the way to be silent.

When you are cursed, Jesus blesses them, When you are betrayed, you are asked to forgive, when you are hated, you are to love. Thus in every turn the territory of satan is defeated. All his weapons, curse, hate, betrayal, sin is destroyed by love, blessing and forgiveness. When we live Jesus way His reign is established in our lives. His Kingdom is built silently, powerfully and forcefully.

We also need an armour for this battle and also the weapons of defence and weapons of offence. (Ephesians 6, 13-17). Again we see Paul speaking in war imagery. Remember what Jesus said before, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." The sword for this battle is undoubtedly the Word of God. It is the only weapon of offence we have in this universal battle.

In *Luke* Jesus again mentions about the violent nature of the Kingdom. Here He says, "*I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? Luke 12, 49.*" Jesus specifically instructed His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on high. (Luke 24, 49). And His disciples patiently waited, worshipped and stayed continually at the temple praising God. (Luke 24, 53). And then suddenly the Fire from Heaven fell on them on that Pentecost day. "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." Acts 2, 3.

Our Father has chosen us individually and given this mighty task of establishing His eternal Kingdom in the hearts of His people, but are we taking the Kingdom by force or are we more interested in the passing show of this world? Let us check our hearts and set our priorities right with wisdom.