**Blessed to Be a Blessing**

**The Word**

Read together the passages on spiritual warfare in point 2 of the sermon outline.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Consider the theme of spiritual warfare discussed on Sunday. What stood out to you from that? What questions did that raise for you if any?

2. Consider the statement made on Sunday: “Prayer is striking the winning blow. Evangelism is gathering the harvest.” What is a main obstacle to prioritizing prayer in your life?

3. On Sunday we talked about Jesus’ model of ministry as being one of grace and truth. It was suggested that sometimes the church has switched the order (truth first and then grace), but to reach the next generation we will need to lead with grace. How do you respond to that idea?

4. As you consider the call from Sunday’s message, what is one specific and concrete thing you feel called to do in response?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

# The Global Religious Landscape: 31.5% Christians Worldwide

1. **WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

*I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light*-- John Keith Falconer

*The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.* -- Henry Martin

1. **SATAN IS HOLDING PEOPLE IN SPRITUAL DARKNESS**

Listen to what Jesus had to say,

Matt 13:18-19

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. NIV

Matt 12:29

29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. NIV

2 Cor 4:4-5

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. NIV

Eph 6:12

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

WHEN WE IGNORE THIS REALITY, THE BATTLE IS LOST

2 Cor 10:4-6

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. NIV

PRAYER IS STRIKING THE WINNING BLOW, EVANGELISM IS THE GATHERING OF THE HARVEST

“Hudson Taylor, before the pagans go about their work, I will rise and sit at the feet of the Lord for the salvation of my nation”

## [Daniel Nash 1775-1831 – Prayer Warrior for Charles Finney ...](https://www.hopefaithprayer.com/prayer-warrior-charles-finney/)

1. **TO EVANGLIZE WE BETTER REVERT BACK TO JESUS MODEL**

John 1:14 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Two truths arising from His model,

1. He identified with the people and lived among them: INCARNATION.
2. The way he lived and ministered is identified as FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

Jesus developed relationships and cared for them

Matt 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (NIV)

Matt 14:14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd; he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (NIV)

*Compassion is not just feeling sorry for someone in need or in a difficult situation, but the willingness do something tangible to help to ease the pain to meet the need, to ensure the person is cared for.*

OUR MODEL, Church begins on Monday

The scriptures affirm that the Son who entered the human world was full of “Grace and truth” John 1:14 NIV

Please note the order “GRACE AND TRUTH”

Major crisis in the world of the young

Liberal agenda – Use of films, social media, and modern literature have contributed to this

* No absolute truth
* Confusion about their own sexuality
* Lives with idealistic dreams, but refuse to work to achieve their dreams
* Not distant truth, but my personal experience matters
* Rejection of strong leadership, we are equal we must have a voice in everything
* Commitment and loyalty non existent
* Drifting away from the faith of the parents

The Church must be anchored to the rock BUT geared to the times

Grace before truth

Truth model is driving YOUTH from the Church