



The Violent Take It By Force
Sunday November 10, 2024

Our sermon is entitled: *The violent take it by force!*
We will begin by reading 4 Scripture texts today.

Matthew 11:12

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

Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Luke 12:32

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Mark 10:15 (also in Luke 18:17)

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERS VIOLENCE

Matthew 11:12

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

“suffers violence” is a **transitive verb**. Transitive verbs can be either passive voice or middle voice, and only the context can help you decide which meaning is intended. (<https://hellenisticgreek.com/>)

“suffers violence”. This verb occurs only here and in Luke 16:16 in the N.T. This verb can be understood both ways, that is, it **experiences** violence that is it is forced upon, overpowered, taken by storm. The verb can also be understood as it **exerts** violence or force.

So then in Matthew 11:12 the form can be either passive voice or middle voice and both make sense, though a different sense.



Passive voice: The focus is on the recipient of the action. The passive idea is that the kingdom is forced upon, is stormed into, is taken by men of violence like “men of violence take it by force” or seize it like a conquered city. This is brought out in the NASB translation. *The implication here is that people are eager and desperate to experience, encounter and receive the Kingdom and so they force their way into it.*

Matthew 11:12 (NASB)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been treated violently, and violent men take it by force.

Middle voice: The subject of the sentence is the noun or noun phrase that is doing the action. The focus is on the action from the subject. The middle voice may mean “exerts violence or force” or “forces its way” like a rushing mighty wind. This is brought out in TPT translation very clearly. *The implication here is that the kingdom advances forcefully, overpowering the kingdom of the devil. The kingdom of heaven is the kingdom of light. It dispels and pushes darkness back wherever it appears.*

Matthew 11:12 (TPT)

From the moment John stepped onto the scene until now, the realm of heaven’s kingdom is bursting forth, and passionate people have taken hold of its power.

We can walk and operate in the understanding that both are true. And indeed, they are. We will emphasize the NKJV and NASB rendering in this sermon.

THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE

The rest of Matthew 11:12 states “the violent take it by force”.

The word take by force means literally to snatch away, carry off. It is often used in the classics of plundering and taking away. Those who use violent efforts drag it to themselves. They that make violence pull it unto them. They seize upon the kingdom and make it their own.

Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Luke 16:16 (NASB)



The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John came; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

This indicates spiritual passion, spiritual exertion, and striving to go in and make it your own.

THE VIOLENT

Violent refers to one who is forceful in eager pursuit.

Not passive. Not inactive. Not indifferent. Not casual.

Passionate people. People who are striving. People who are pressing in with energy and fervor, into the Kingdom to make it their own.

TAKE IT BY FORCE

The Greek word translated “take it by force” means “to seize on, claim for oneself eagerly, to appropriate”.

The message here from Matthew 11:12 and Luke 16:16 is that to experience the kingdom we need to force our way into it, with passion, striving, fervor, energy, and then seize, claim and appropriate what it has for ourselves.

But why is this?

WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE IT BY FORCE?

John the Baptist announced that the kingdom is at hand (near). The Lord Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God is here.

Yet, there are things that hinder us from entering in and experiencing what the Father has for His children in His kingdom. We are contending against these things to press into the kingdom.

We can easily mention these three:

#1, Our own flesh hinders us.



We must push against our own flesh. The flesh has no real interest in the things of the Spirit and if given the opportunity will lead us away from the things of the Spirit (Galatians 5:17). So, we crucify the flesh and stir up our desires for the things of the Spirit.

#2, There is an enemy who hinders us.

Satan will do his best to keep us from pressing into the kingdom and all that God desires to give to us in His kingdom. Through his lies, deceptions, distractions, and temptations, etc.

#3, God is looking for passionate people.

This is where the kingdom of heaven responds to our pull in the spirit. This is the violence that the kingdom of heaven feels and experiences – our spiritual passion, fervor, tenacity, our laying a hold of what God has made available and pulling it to ourselves, in the spirit.

God is looking for such spiritual passion and fervor. Consider what the Bible states:

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Revelation 3:15-16

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

GOD WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE ALL OF HIS KINGDOM

Luke 12:32

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

We know the heart of God. He is pleased to give us the kingdom – that is everything He administers through His rule and reign. God is not the One holding things back from us. God is not the One making it hard for us to have the things of His Kingdom.

There is another interesting aspect that the Lord Jesus taught us about receiving the Kingdom. He taught us to be childlike. So really, to enter and receive the Kingdom we have to be both warriorlike and childlike.

WARRIORLIKE AND CHILDLIKE



It is the same kingdom, but different postures. Here is what Jesus said:

Mark 10:15 (also in Luke 18:17)

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.

We must receive the Kingdom like a child to enter the Kingdom.

Earlier in Matthew 11:12 Jesus taught that we must violently press into the Kingdom.

Both are true and we must maintain both postures to experience the Kingdom.

We are childlike in our heart of faith. A heart that simply trusts, that just believes, that does not question. We have the heart of a warrior and are warriorlike in our pursuit, bold, tenacious and enduring.

HOW TO BE VIOLENT IN THE SPIRIT

Faith that is bold and childlike.

[Narrate story of the Roman Centurion coming to Jesus in Matthew 8:5-13]

Faith that is tenacious and will not let go.

[Narrate story of the Canaanite woman coming to Jesus in Matthew 15:21-28]

Think about both the Roman Centurion and the Canaanite woman. We know that in his earthly ministry the Father sent Jesus' to minister first to the house of Israel. According to God's program, only starting with the Day of Pentecost, the Gospel would be made available to the uttermost parts of the earth, including the Gentiles. Both the Roman Centurion and the Canaanite woman were asking for something that had been planned in the future. Think of this: God momentarily fast-forwarded His clock for them! They received now what God had planned for a future time in His program, because of their faith. He is the same God!

Faith that is persistent and enduring.

[Narrate story of the widow woman and the unjust judge in Luke 18:1-8]

SUMMARY

Matthew 11:12

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



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Call to action. What are the things that you need to be violent about and that you need to press in and appropriate forcefully? Be determined to do it. Jesus invites us to be violent in the spirit and take it by force.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says: "in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**The Violent Take It By Force
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. **Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group.** All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Matthew 11:12; Luke 16:16; Luke 12:32; Mark 10:15*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, What did Jesus mean when He said that the Kingdom of heaven "suffers violence"? We stated that the violence that the kingdom of heaven feels and experiences is our spiritual passion, fervor, tenacity, our laying a hold of what God has made available and pulling it to ourselves, in the spirit. How do we do this practically?



#2, What did Jesus mean when He said that the violent take it by force? Why do we need to be violent?

#3, We have to be both warriorlike and childlike to receive and enter into the Kingdom. Who does this mean? How do we hold two seemingly opposite postures together at the same time?

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The Lord Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. He also taught that we must receive the kingdom of God as a little child to enter in. We learn that to experience the kingdom we need to force our way into it, with passion, striving, fervor, energy, and then seize, claim and appropriate what it has for ourselves. We also discuss why this is required: (1) Our own flesh hinders us. (2) There is an enemy who hinders us. (3) God is looking for passionate people. This is where the kingdom of heaven responds to our pull in the spirit. This is the violence that the kingdom of heaven feels and experiences – our spiritual passion, fervor, tenacity, our laying a hold of what God has made available and pulling it to ourselves, in the spirit. God is pleased to give us the kingdom – that is everything He administers through His rule and reign. We must be warrior-like and childlike to receive and enter His Kingdom. We are childlike in our heart of faith. A heart that simply trusts, that just believes, that does not question. We have the heart of a warrior and are warrior-like in our pursuit, bold, tenacious and enduring. We also discuss how to be violent in the spirit: (1) Faith that is bold and childlike. (2) Faith that is tenacious and will not let go. (3) Faith that is persistent and enduring. What are the things that you need to be violent about and that



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you need to press in and appropriate forcefully? Be determined to do it. Jesus invites us to be violent in the spirit and take it by force.

KEYWORDS

Kingdom, spiritual passion, spiritual hunger, violent take it by force, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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