

The Violent Take the Kingdom by Force

(Mt 11:12; Lk 16:16; Jn 10:27-29; Acts 8:37; Jn 1:12; 1 Jn 5:4-5; Rev 21:7)

To overcome all opposition to enter the Kingdom of God takes violence, and violence takes faith to consider Yahshua as Sovereign as Rom 10:9-10, so as never to be ashamed of Him or disappointed (Rom 10:11). One must leave behind everything that opposes this eternal life lest he be the cowardly and unbelieving of Rev 21:8, who did not overcome (verse 7) so as to become a son of God. This overcoming goes right with Lk 16:16 and Mt 11:12. The good news is *good news* because it tells a person what he must believe and do to prove that he has the faith to overcome all things that the good news says he must overcome in order to become a son of God.

To *overcome* means to have the victory over, to conquer, to prevail against in order to get the victory. All his foes must be subdued, hating everything that opposes him to become a disciple, counting them as an enemy to be subdued, conquered, and overcome as Lk 14:26,27,33 or Mk 10:28-30. This is critical because his eternal destiny is at stake once he has the opportunity to receive or reject the faith. He must be violent against all foes, seeing the things of Mk 10:29 as foes and treating them as foes — even his own life in this world. In order to serve Messiah where He is, one must hate his own life also (Lk 14:26; Jn 12:25-26). This will cause him to be honored by the Father (Jn 14:15,21-24).

To serve Messiah where He is, where He can be served, requires one leaving behind all things that will not go with him to that place where He is glorified (Mal 1:11; 1 Tim 2:8). He must take total identity within the Body of Messiah he is baptized into. Like climbing a high mountain, he must leave everything and everybody behind. To take up his cross and follow Messiah to the place where He is and serve Him there is eternal life (Ps 133:3). One does not have new life in the old framework of the world.

If you want God to become your Father and yourself to become His son, it requires overcoming on your part, because God's Son Yahshua has already overcome for you. Now you must overcome all that hinders you from becoming a disciple of His, which is spelled out in the gospels. Mt 10:37-38 is to make yourself comparable and compatible to Him.

Jn 3:5; Lk 16:16 — Birth is a forceful process. The Kingdom of God is to be preached so that all who are willing to do God's will can press their way into it when His word becomes clear and the Holy Spirit works with the preacher, and fusion takes place. To enter the Kingdom of God is an entirely new life and experience, radically different. Otherwise you are deceived if you think you are born again (2 Cor 5:17).

Jn 12:26; 1 Cor 10:16-17 — Total identification is not merely changing your habits and going to church on Sunday. But before one can enter, he must come to repentance, whatever that means or requires. If it is anything less than what *repentance* means he will be disappointed (Rom 10:11; Acts 2:38; Jn 12:25).

A person must force his way into the kingdom, squeezing, giving up his life and possessions and family, job, security. It requires "pressing in" (#971). The kingdom "suffers violence," has to be seized. One must press in with the energy of the faith he received in Rom 10:11 to overcome as Rev 21:7. One must do everything the good news says he must obey to overcome the world, the flesh, and Satan (Mt 10:37; Mk 10:29; Lk 14:26,33). To overcome is to press into the Kingdom of God with the power of the Holy Spirit upon you. Rom 10:17 — Without faith it is impossible to be violent against all enemies, the things one must overcome to enter the Kingdom of God (Rev 21:7), such as opposing parents, etc., who must be regarded as enemies if they keep you from eternal life (Mk 10:30; Mt 11:12; Lk 16:16). One has to be violent in order to take the Kingdom of God by force. It requires spiritual conflict, warfare with the flesh, including your flesh also (Lk 14:26-27), to take up the cross and follow Yahshua (Mt 16:24-26; Mk 8:34-36; Mt 10:37-39).

To obey the gospel requires faith, and faith is the power of the Holy Spirit with or upon a person who is first of all willing to do God's will (Jn 7:17).

A violent entry is necessary to overcome all the forces of death (Rev 21:7; Mt 11:7-12). Violence is required to take the Kingdom, to enter the Kingdom, and even to preach the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God makes its entry into human society in every place (1 Tim 2:8; Mal 1:11). It must penetrate every nation where He has caused His name to dwell (Isa 52:15), opposing status quo. It transcends the softness (Mt 11:8) of quiet, dignified, or sedate

religious formalism. Jer 23:16-22 exposes the pretension of those who are playing church (verses 16-17) and refuses to dance to the music of this world, or to entertain the world with the flute as dead religious traditionalism does (Lk 7:30-32). But we mourned.

Jn 17:17 — The violence of a will set upon His will is the only way anyone can have a new birth to enter the Kingdom of God.

Mk 10:35-39; Lk 12:49-53 is the only sword we know and the only fire we know. We have a different battle technique than political or military warfare (Jn 18:36). But the upheaval caused by the Kingdom of God is not caused by political provocation or armed advance. It is the result of God's Spirit in us shaking all relationships, households, cities, and nations by the working of the Holy Spirit's power in us (Mt 24:14; Lk 4:14-32; Col 2:13-15; Mt 28:20; Isa 49:6).

To overlook Lk 16:16 is like overlooking Mk 16:16 or Mt 16:16, even as Philip preached to the eunuch (Acts 8:37). To overlook Lk 16:16 will bring passivity. The Kingdom of God must be proclaimed with spiritual passion. So we have to make up our minds what we are going to do with Lk 16:16. To overlook it will bring us to the same place that it brought the first edah, the first witness, which put out the light (Rev 2:4-5). For apart from praying as 1 Tim 2:1 exhorts us to pray — impassioned pursuit of these things — and as Mt 6:9-15, overcoming satanic opposition and expecting the power of God to be upon us for ministry (Acts 1:8), and for seeking and saving the lost, the Kingdom of God will not come. It must be passionately prayed down to earth. Lk 16:16 — *Pressing* (#971, with compelling force) has been continuously misinterpreted by Christians, resulting in the Crusades centuries ago, and today in great efforts to enter politics so as to produce "righteousness" in society. Can you imagine what kind of righteousness their god had? They did not have the same God as Paul or Peter or Yahshua (Col 2:13; Acts 14:21-22).

The *pressing* that must occur is on the part of the *hearer*, and only by faith can one enter the Kingdom of God (Rom 10:9,10,13). This takes violence against every evil force. Rev 21:7 is the overcoming all "believers" must be violent to do. If one truly believes, he will overcome to enter the Kingdom of God, that is, to be born again, which requires a forceful transition through the birth canal.

Rev 21:7-8 — The one who *overcomes* in verse 7 is in contrast to the *cowardly and unbelieving* one in verse 8, who shrinks back from everything he must press through in order to enter the Kingdom of God.