

LESSON 13: SATAN

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS SATAN'S PLAN?

If you are listening to God and living out your life under His direction, then you will find that you have an enemy, Satan. This enemy is going to develop in your life. From day one, he does not like you.

Read John 10:10

- ▶ According to this verse, what is Satan's plan?
- ▶ What is God offering to you?

You start out with an enemy, but his direction towards you is going to develop based on how well you live your life for Christ.

Read 1 Peter 5:6-8

- ▶ These verses tell us that Satan is seeking someone to devour, but how does Satan choose who he really wants to go after?

Satan makes that choice based on how much a person is impacting the world for Christ. If our life is leading people to trust in God and to walk with Him, then Satan will bring his attacks to try to stop us. We talk about spiritual warfare often, but we often miss the point that we are the weapon that damages Satan's kingdom.

Life is a chess game between God's people with their godly influence and the lost people and their sinful influence. Like chess pieces, everyone has unique abilities and gifts. Satan moves his pieces in response to how God is moving His pieces. Satan's ultimate goal is to limit the number of people having a positive influence on the unsaved and leading them to the kingdom of God. We must make sure we are prepared for this battle.

We often overrate Satan. Thankfully, he is not equal to God, and he does not have God's capacity. He has to rely on a demonic organization made up of the 1/3 of heaven that fell with Satan (Revelation 12:4, 9).

DEMONS ARE ORGANIZED

Read Daniel 10:13

In this passage, there is one demon that heads up Persia, and he had enough demons under him that he was able to resist Gabriel's mission, that was from God Himself, for three weeks until Michael came and gained victory for him. He has demons that are at his beck and call, surrender to him, and work for him. They are organized and careful. How Satan directs them, and the number of demons he sends, will be based on how much impact your life is having on the world.

Example: Hitler studied and practiced the occult and rituals. He hated God's people. When he decided to go after the Jews, he was frightened of the church and God's people. He knew the church was the only one who could stop him. To judge how the church would react, one night he sent some men out to attack Jewish business owners, beat them up, and tear up their businesses. He waited the next day to see the Churches' reaction. Except for a small group of pastors the church remained silent. Eventually, Hitler takes over the church and kills 6 million Jews because the one entity that could have stopped him, and that he feared, refused to stand when they should have.

Example: George Bush failed when he was elected concerning the idea that we would define marriage as between a man and a woman. After he was elected, Laura Bush said she could not see why we were making this a political issue because it was a moral issue, but in reality, all law is based on moral issues. Because President Bush and Christians did not push this legislation through, we now see several states that have allowed marriage between people of same-sex and even adoption children by same sex couples. This is happening because we had a man who said he loved Christ but did not take the stand he should have.

We know the enemy will come after us, and often that is why we do not take a stand, and why we face defeat. We fear his attack and therefore do nothing. We must be mindful that we have an enemy who will send demons to attack us. We must be ready and willing to stand up.

WHAT CAN STOP DEMONS?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

Verses 6-8 tell us that there is something (the Holy Spirit in God's children) stopping the arrival of antichrist in the world. When we are removed in the rapture, then the Antichrist is released to come and do as he wills. As you can see, believers make a huge impact on the world today. Even though we are in the minority, we have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to hold the Antichrist at bay.

- ▶ How do I become the ultimate spiritual entity for warfare that I need to be for Christ?

Read Matthew 12:29

In these verses "the strong man" is symbolic of Satan. As Christians, we have the power to get into Satan's house and bind him so that we can go into his kingdom and release captives. That is the directive God has for us. Thus we become the spiritual entity that impacts the world. It is imperative that we be able to conquer Satan.

- ▶ How are we able to conquer Satan?

Summary of Romans 6-8

1. Death of old nature. (chapter 6 – there is only one nature in you)
2. What it was like before I was a Christian? (chapter 7)
3. Role of the Holy Spirit in my life. (chapter 8)

The way that I become the entity that conquers Satan is to first conquer him in my own life by becoming a Christian. My old nature is removed; I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit; and now as I live in the Holy Spirit, I have the capacity to live victoriously in the power of the Holy Spirit. If I allow Satan to conquer me, then I cannot overcome his work in this world.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Read Galatians 5:16

In the Greek, it reads: If we live by the Spirit then it is impossible to fulfill the love of the flesh. Living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is the major way we can defeat the enemy.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- ▶ How do I impact Satan in this kingdom?

These verses tell us that we are salt and light and this is how we impact Satan's kingdom.

Salt was first used in the 1st century as a preservative rather than a seasoning. Likewise, we preserve God's character in this world by living out God's will in our lives.

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

These verses teach us that we are controlled by the culture of our day, and Satan controls our culture. Our culture teaches that it is not your character that matters, but it is your success and your production.

Example: We don't care if Clinton is a womanizer with someone his daughter's age as long as he puts money in my house. I don't care if John Kennedy sleeps around in the White House as long as he wins the day for me. We, as Americans, don't care about character anymore. The culture is a reversal of what Jesus said we ought to be.

- ▶ Who is reversing what God wants? (The enemy)
- ▶ How do I bind him, and how do I begin to affect him?

First, I live my life in a manner that shows that God's character is of paramount importance in my life. *(Being the salt of the world)*

Second, share the God's truth through the Gospel and any other truth God states in the Bible that is absolutely clear. If it is an objective black and white directive in scripture, teach it to the world. Do not teach your own interpretation of the Bible in areas that are not black and white, such as Baptists are not allowed to dance. *(Being the light to the world)*

I John 5 affirms that I need to pray according to God's will and what God wants if I am going to have an effect on my community. When I pray in this manner, it will impact others. I claim God's promises as we saw in 2 Peter. I believe them, and I begin to allow Him to form Himself in me.

Read Acts 16:6-10

In these verses, God directs Paul to go to Macedonia (Europe) instead of Africa (where Paul wanted to go.) Like Paul, it is important to go where God tells you to go, so you can impact the kingdom through fulfilling God's plan in your life.

This passage is where Luke joins the team. Notice that it changes from "they" to "we" in this passage as Luke joins Paul's missionary team. This is also the passage that indicates the reason why the gospel went to Europe instead of Africa and was then eventually spread to America and ultimately us today.

► How do these verses impact us today?

You go where God says, let your old man die, and live out God's character. Share truth, pray according to God's will, and go where He sends you. Allow God to move you wherever He wants to move you. When you do these things, then you will be God's chess piece, and will impact Satan's kingdom. At this point, Satan will develop an animosity towards you.

DO THE DEMONS KNOW YOU?

Read Acts 19:15

¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

Because Paul was walking and sharing Christ as well as praying in God's will, the demons knew his name. Demons know who Jesus is and can also recognize those Christians who are impacting the world for Christ.

► How can you live a life so that the demons know your name?

You should strive to live in such a way that the demons in Bryan/College Station, Texas talk about you and know your name because of your impact for Christ. We are the spiritual weapon that God uses to impact others. When we are effective, we overwhelm the satanic influence and begin to anger the demons.

Do not doubt the existence of demonic influence and be careful to not open yourself up to demonic influence by being in the wrong place at the wrong time and not following God's will. Be careful even to not put yourself in danger by going to a place of demonic or occult activity because of curiosity instead of being there to be God's influence.

In this very room, there are angels and demons. The demons strive to undermine who you are in Christ and your impact in this world. Your focus needs to not be on Satan, but on loving Jesus and letting His Spirit flow from you. We must rely on Christ to handle Satan and not try to face him on our own. Satan's demons will double up on you to rip you apart, but remember that you have the 3rd person of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit) with you. When He is with you, who can be against you? So no matter how many demons Satan sends against you, they will never outnumber God. You are always the victor when you become a spiritual weapon in the hands of God.

SUMMARY

You have an enemy, Satan, and he has a limited number of demons. Satan assigns the demons as he sees fit according to your walk with Christ and impact on the world for Christ.

Satan attacks you by drawing you away from God so that you will no longer negatively impact Satan's plan for this world.

You can withstand Satan by becoming the salt and light of this world through sharing God's truth, praying God's will, and going where God wants you to go. Those in leadership that stand up for Christ need our prayer to support them against Satan's attacks.

Satan is powerful and knows what we are thinking and praying and is the master of distraction.

Example: When Jesus was in the Garden praying before the crucifixion, likely all of Satan's demons were present and attacking Jesus. They could not control Him, but they could distract Him by suggesting that there may be some other way.

As Christians, our beliefs should drive our desires, but for the lost, it is just the opposite. There are places of satanic strongholds. If you find yourself in these places, focus on God instead of Satan and Satan will not be able to pull you away from God for he is scared of God.