

SERMONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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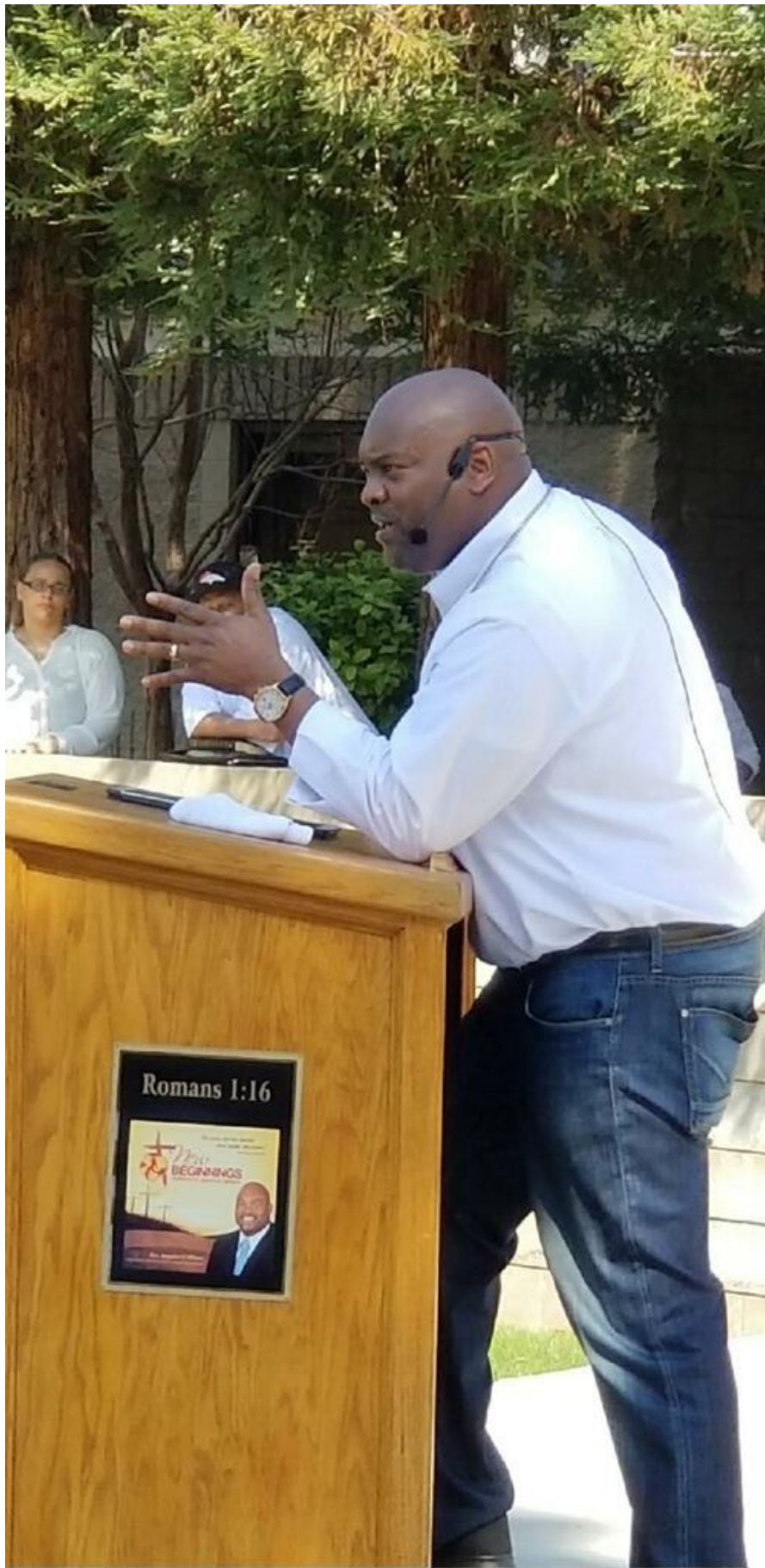
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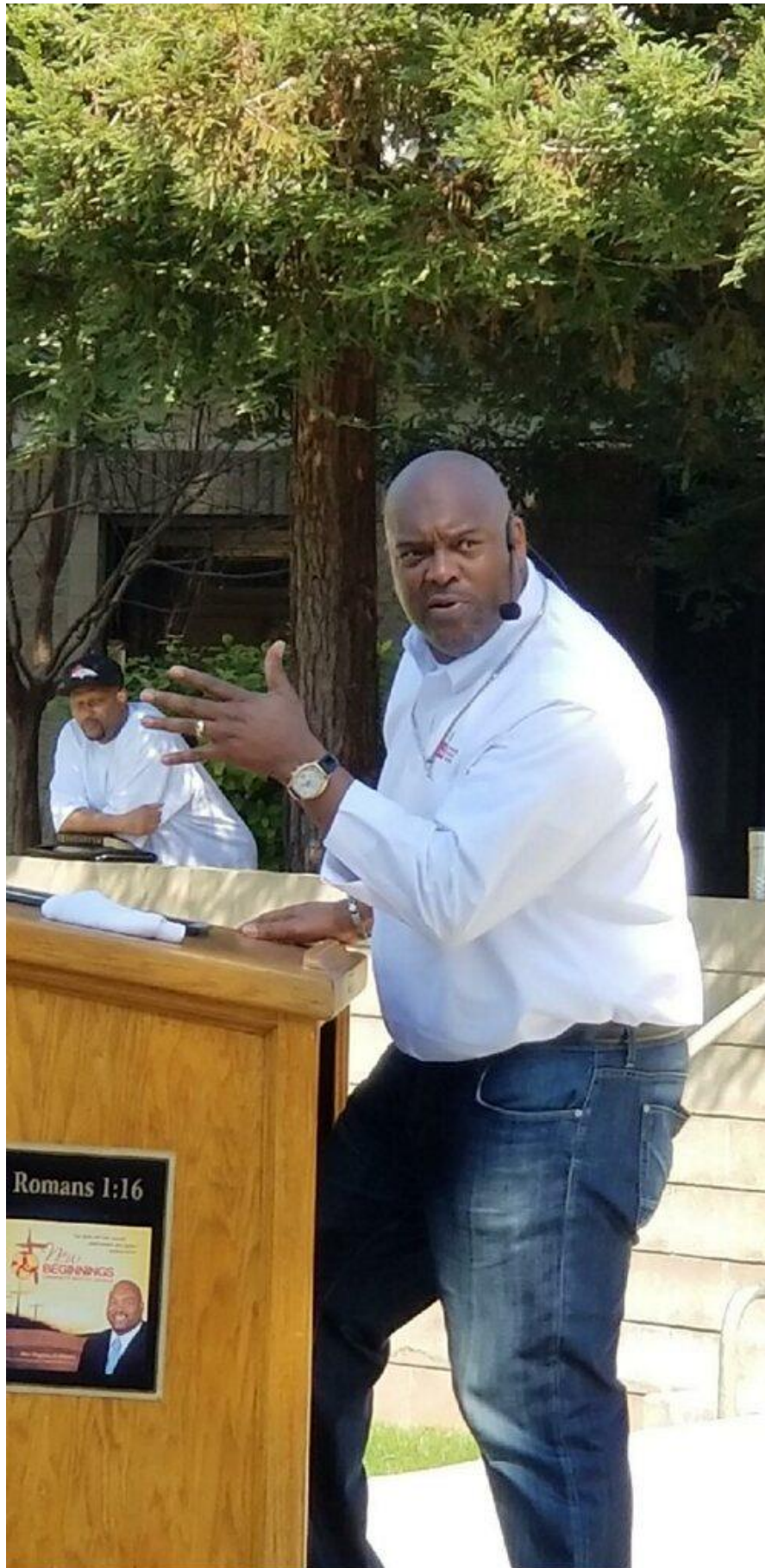
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DEDICATION

To the preacher in the trenches fighting the
good fight.





“Darkness cannot drive out
darkness; only light can do
that. Hate cannot drive out
hate; only love can do
that.”

MLK

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO THE LOVE OF MY LIFE...THANKS
SHARON FOR BEING A GREAT
INTERCESSOR FOR THE WORK OF THE
MINISTR

. “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

MLK

CHAPTER ONE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS REAL

The world (fallen-humanity) is also known in Scripture to have a system of beliefs that operates under the god of this world and the direction of its leader, Satan. He leads by deception and destruction and stands against truth, righteousness, godliness, holiness, and the Good News of Jesus Christ. In this system of beliefs (with human leaders) and governments, there is great opposition to Christianity and to Jesus Christ as Lord. Jesus said that Christians are the light of the world, meaning we are the righteousness of God that shines amidst the darkness of this system.

The believer is charged by Christ to be in the world (cosmos), but not of the world (wicked-humanity) (John 17:14-18). The two are clearly defined as different, but yet very important. The definitions of such truths help us to understand that spiritual warfare comes in many forms: from the world, through humans, and the influence of sin and Satan. We live in a fallen world, influenced by an evil spirit who has a strategic plan to oppose all those who love God and are a part of his heavenly kingdom.

According to the New Testament, the world was created by God's word, identified with Christ in John 1:1-14. John says of Christ in John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him." World is also associated with humankind. Christ said of His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt 5:14 a). Often world is used to indicate "the men of this world" who are said to lie in wickedness (Eph 2:2; 1 John 5:19). The men are called "the world," not only because they compose the greater part of the world's population, but mainly because they pursue and cherish the things of

this world. According to Paul in Ephesians men in the world who are under the control of the wicked one are following his ways because they are under his influence.

John says in his narrative 1 John, that the believer can know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. This the Christian can identify with because the world is in a battle with them to the death, and it is a hostile enemy, who seeks to destroy them.

The Psalmist describes the world as men of the world " having their portion in this life" (Ps 17:14). World may also denote the fleeting character of life's riches and pleasures and the folly of making them of central importance in life. "Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world, but loses his life?" (Matt 16:26).The word in this sense denotes not a person but things and objects to be worshipped.

In another use of the word Jesus states, "You belong to the world here below but I come from above" (John 8:23). Jesus was living in this world as a sphere of habitation, but He was separated from its atmosphere that was temporal and worldly. The term world also denotes the condition of human affairs, with man alienated from and opposed to God. Jesus wants His followers to live in the world to serve and to witness but not be caught up in the godless pleasures and perversities of life.

In his high priestly prayer to His Father Jesus request of Him protection for His disciples; "I do not ask you to keep them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One" (John 17:15). As we read the narrative it is revealed that the word has two meanings but one pronunciation "kos-mous" the world in the wide sense of the term and humanity in the narrow sense.

The Scriptures suggest that the world is against both the believer, and the rule of God.

It rejects Christ, his word, his bride, and uplifts all those who stand in opposition to Christianity.

According to scripture, the believer is commanded to love not the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world, and the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (I Jn. 2:15-17).

The scripture says to the Christian, “you are of God little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore, they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this, we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (I Jn. 5:4-5).” John suggests in his narrative that there is a difference between the believer and the non-believer. His statement implies the two are enemies, and that they have nothing in common together.

According to John the Apostle, “we know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (I Jn. 5:19).” In John’s gospel narrative Jesus says “I have given them [the disciples] your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one (Jn.17:14-16).

In the same narrative Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (Jn.

16:33).” “If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you (Jn. 15:18-20).”

The definitions above indicate a hostile presence from humans who oppose Jesus and the Church [The World]. These humans are also under the sway or influence of the evil one who is in battle with Christ and his disciples. Spiritual warfare with the world, the flesh and the devil, are intertwined, and these enemies are poised to attack those who are not of this world [same mind] and against God. The world according to Jesus hates the believer, and is at odds with the faith. It is not to align itself with us, for it has another god that it must serve the prince and the power of the air.

CHAPTER TWO

How to get victory over the Devil St. Luke 4:1-14

⁴ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*’ ”

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.

¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,’

¹¹ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*’ ”

¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.¹

Introduction:

When we arrive at this narrative today, we are forced to see the real reality of an evil-being and his motifs against the child of God and the mission of God.

Satan himself opposes the believer and the mission of the Church. We learn this because of his efforts to destroy Gods son. This chapter alone reveals his methods, mannerisms and his message to the believer.

¹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 4:1–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

This text reveals the secrets of warfare and also the strategy for defeating his methods and endless assaults. We can learn how to be proactive and progressive in our walk and witness against the enemy of our souls.

Jesus teaches the believer how to deal with the devil in this passage, and he models for us how to be victorious even in our weakest moments in life.

Im glad today, that we have a hero who knows our struggles and who knows our frail-frames. In this text we see him when he was weak in the flesh yet he is able, even in his weakness to defeat the temptations of the enemy of our souls. Lets learn today from the three temptations of Jesus Christ.

I. Deny your flesh

4 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*’ ”

Notice:

The first thing we observe in this text is that Jesus had just had the worship experience of his life, and was filled with the Holy Spirit when he heads into the trial of his life.

It's a great reminder that every time we have a divine encounter with God, we can expect a visit from the evil one to try to get us to disregard what we just experienced.

The text says that he was Led by the Spirit into the wilderness...It was the Spirit of God that led him into this desert place.

Its as the Spirit of God that ordered his steps. It was the Spirit of God that took him to a place of opposition. It was the Spirit of God that was with him, directing him and led him to the wilderness.

I believe that the Spirit knew what He was about to face. The Spirit knew what was up ahead of Jesus the man.

Yet he did not prevent Jesus from enduring the war, but he would enter it with him, and strengthen him through it.

Application:

So it is in the life of the believer. God knows we will face temptations...God knows where they are and when they will attack and or reveal themselves, yet he chooses not to remove them, but rather to empower us to endure them and conquer them.

God desires to manifest himself to his children in these moments of temptation for the believer... We see him do this in the life of Jesus in this passage.

Notice:

The second thing we see in this text is that Satan tries to get Jesus to use his power to satisfy his own “bodily needs”.

This subtle temptation was introduced because the Master had a legitimate need...He was Hungry after fasting for 40 days...

Satan appealed to the desires of his flesh....

“If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

However, if Jesus would take his orders from Satan, he would have failed to obey the command of His Father.

Here it is...

When we read this text we learn that Satan wanted Jesus to comfort his flesh, at his command, and with the power that God the father invested in him!

Satan wants us to comfort the flesh. (The lust of the flesh) Satan wants us to feed the carnal appetite, and use the power that God the Father has invested in us.

Satan wants us to satisfy our lustful desires, at his command.

Just like He wanted Jesus to refuse to wait on the Father for His provisions, he wants us to refuse to wait on the father also.

Here it is...

He wants you to refuse to wait on God to have your needs met!

So he dangles physical pleasures before your eyes, in your weakest moments, tempting you to disobey the father in order to satisfy the demands of you're fleshly appetite.

He is a subtle deceiver, luring and enticing you with the bait of disobedience and impatience!

Story:

One of the largest freshwater turtles is the alligator snapping turtle. Found primarily in the southeastern United States, these massive turtles have been known to weigh close to 250 pounds.

They are carnivorous creatures, and while their diet is primarily fish, they have been known to eat almost anything else they can find in the water—even in a few cases small alligators!

The alligator snapping turtle relies on a uniquely deceitful method of trapping fish.

The turtle will lie completely still on the floor of a lake or river with its mouth wide open.

At the end of the turtle's tongue is a small, pink, worm-shaped appendage.

The turtle wiggles the end of its tongue so that it looks like a worm moving through the water.

When a fish comes to eat the worm, the turtle's jaws rapidly close, trapping the fish so that it cannot escape.

Similarly to the snapping turtle's lure, temptation from the evil-ones comes in the disguise of something desirable, but it always carries destruction with it in the end.

I believe that if we could only see If we could see the end result of taking the bait....rather than the tempting part, it would be far easier to resist his trickery!

[Can I get a witness?]

But Satan knows this, so he cleverly disguises what is deadly in the guise of something pleasurable.

[Did you catch it?]

Thirdly, I learned from Jesus in this first temptation how to defeat the enemy ...

Jesus gets victory by using the word of God against the tempter.

The Bible says...

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*' "

I like this right here, because by quoting scripture he was able to defeat the tempter and gain power over the situation that he was facing...

He proves to me that theres power in the word! Theres power in the spoken word...

He didn't just think about the word, or just think good thoughts...He spoke the word, and quoted the word because he knew the word!

He could lean on the word, because he trusted the word! And only the word could defeat the lies and temptation of the devil.

Can I say it another way? Only the word could remind Him, that he was not to use his super-natural power to make stones into bread.

Only the word could remind him, that life was more than fulfilling his fleshly desires or needs as a man!

Only the word could remind him of his purpose and capability in the face of temptation... Jesus used the word!

Application:

Oh my beloved, as men and women of God, you and I need to hold the scripture in our hearts, quote the scripture with our mouths, and apply it to our lives so that we may know who we are and what we are not to do in the face of temptation and lies from the evil-one.

The bible gives us this instruction...

The bible gives us this authority...

The bible gives us this assurance...

The bible gives us the confidence...

I pray that we learn and practice using the sword of the spirit in the face of temptation!

II. Deny your eyes

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord* your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

Notice:

When we come to this portion of the text, we get a good look at Satan’s second attempt to deceive and tempt Jesus.

In this effort Satan wanted to get Jesus to Worship Him. (He didn’t want him to stop worshipping the Father, because he had just finished fasting...what he wanted was to include just a *little Devil worship* along with worshipping his Father God!

The bible says, in verse seven, “if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

Here it is...

Satan tried to appeal to his eyes, earthly comforts, riches and things. Right after he had just been baptized, spent 40 days fasting in isolation and being intimate with the father.

He wasn't asking for Jesus to take back what he just experienced...he was asking to include him in the spiritual formation of his soul!

Observation:

He offered him something in exchange for a little worship!

Here it is...

If you hit the knee one time real quick, I will give you everything that your eyes can see!

Satan knew after Jesus finished praying to the father, that he didn't have nothing to live on...so he offered a quick solution to the poverty of ministry!

Satan offered to help him to build his Ministry-Kingdom. He wanted Jesus to take the world, without sacrifice.

He wanted Jesus to have back creation, *without Calvary*, in its sinful-like condition, unable to be pardoned for all of eternity.

Observation:

In Christ response, He (Jesus) would not bow the knee to Satan.

“Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

The Master would not give in to the tempting desires of what he saw, and how easy it was to have it all!

The Master would not trade his cross for “a quick come-up session and a temporary Kingdom.”

The Master would not forsake you and I for a new earthly rule and pseudo glory.

The Master was completely focused on doing it God’s way, to please His father and satisfy the required manner of salvation for the souls of mankind.

The Master would *not worship Satan*, no matter what the prize may be!

Application:

You and I can learn from the Master in this verse...

Nothing that the evil one offers us is worth us worshipping him!

Nothing that he dangles in our eyes is worth turning our back on God...

Its better to be poor in ministry, than blessed by the devil!

Its better to have no building, than be blessed with a Satanic-gift!

Oh beloved! Here me today please! I’m pleading with you

Be careful with wanting everything you see.

Be careful desiring the things of this world.
All that Satan offers comes with a price.

Look at Satan in this verse:

Can't you see him tempting Jesus at a time in his life when he needed food, he needed shelter, he needed resources, but his temptation came with a price!

The price was satanic worship...the price was to deny his father, the price was to make *Satan* god, and then...he could have all that he wanted.

Secondly I learned in this passage....that Satan didn't lie about his possessions...they were his to give away, because he had gotten dominion from Adam.

He wouldn't lie to Jesus about what he had or the authority he possessed to give it away. He knew that Jesus knew where Satan got his resources from!

In Jesus weakest moments, Satan wanted to appeal to his eyes, hoping that his fleshly desires would cause him to reject the Father to satisfy himself, and the need for wealth!

Thirdly, what we see is that Jesus once again, defeats Satan by using the word!

“Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

I like this right here, because by quoting scripture he was able to defeat the tempter and gain power over the situation that he was facing...

Theres power in the word! Theres power in the spoken word...

He didn't just think about the word, or just think good thoughts...He spoke the word, quoted the word because he knew the word!

He could lean on the word, because he trusted the word! And only the word could defeat the lies of the devil.

Only the word could remind Him, that he was not to bow the knee to worship the tempter.

Only the word could remind him, that life was more than fulfilling his fleshly desires or needs.

Only the word could remind him of his purpose and capability in the face of temptation...

Jesus used the word!

Story:

A man and his wife were shopping at a mall kiosk, when a beautiful shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. The husband said that his eyes began to follow her.

Without looking up from the item she was examining, he heard his wife ask him a question, "Was it worth the trouble you're in?"

[Did you catch it?]

Wandering eyes will get you in trouble every time...don't even look when the temptation comes your way!

III. Deny your pride

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If *You are the Son of God*, throw Yourself down from here.

¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’

¹¹ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*’ ”

Notice:

When we come to this portion of the text we get to see Satan tempt Jesus a third time! In this attempt he takes Jesus to the top of the temple.

Here he tempts with the pride of life! By taking Scripture out of context. Satan wanted to use religion to get the Master off track.

Satan wanted Jesus to rise to ministry-stardom quickly through a public event. If he would jump off of the temple and do the spectacular, he would gain instant publicity, fame, popularity, swag, and earthly stardom!

Satan wanted Jesus to bypass Calvary and do the spectacular.

He (Satan) wanted the Master to win the world by entertainment, and to show that he was the messiah another way, instead of a sacrificial death for mankind.

Satan wanted Jesus to do something so great that people would follow Him for his showmanship and not his sacrifice.

I believe that Satan knew that there would be no atonement for sins by doing the spectacular. His temptation was to be great, look great, perform great, have everybody see you and talk about you, and demonstrate for the world that you have power and divine connection with angels!

Application:

The same temptations used against the master he uses on you and I.

He often tempts us to seek prominence, power, publicity, privilege, and position in the world.

He often tempts us to seek a high position within the church.

He often seeks to tempt us with doing the spectacular, as long as we avoid the road to Calvary.

His temptation is for us to be great, look great, perform great, have everybody see you and talk about you, and have you to perform for the world and demonstrate for the world that you have power and divine connection with angels!

Here it is...

Satan knows that if we would be like Jesus we must take up our Cross and follow Him.

This means living sacrificially. Jesus used the Scriptures to answer the tempter one more time.

This time he quotes Deuteronomy 6:16, forbidding God from being put to the test (Luke 4:12).

Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

I like this right here, because by quoting scripture he was able to defeat the tempter and gain power over the situation that he was facing...

Theres power in the word! Theres power in the spoken word...

He didn't just think about the word, or just think good thoughts...He spoke the word, quoted the word because he knew the word!

He could lean on the word, because he trusted the word! And only the word could defeat the lies of the devil.

Only the word could remind Him, that he was not to use his power to do the spectacular or to test God.

Only the word could remind him, that life was more than becoming popular in ministry, and performing for the crowds.

Only the word could remind him of his purpose and capability in the face of temptation...

Jesus used the word!

Conclusion:

When the temptations of life come your way, use the Scriptures to combat them.

When the tempter comes to distract you use the Scriptures to defeat Him.

When the trials of life come upon you, use the Scriptures to escape them.

When doubt and worry is at your door, use the Scriptures to handle them.

When decisions or choices must be made, use the Scriptures to make them.

I got to leave you now...

If you will do this the victory will be yours...

Jesus understood this...and was able to defeat Satans temptations

A Pastor once preached a sermon about Jesus victory over Satan ...

The preacher said....Satan had been trying to kill Jesus for the last 33 years before the Crucifixion.

At His birth he tried using the tyrant Herod to kill all the boy babies under 2 years of age. . . But he failed.

He tempted Jesus in the wilderness to stray off the Father's plan . . . But he failed.

He set before the Lord the lusts of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life . . . But he failed.

He tempted Jesus' body, soul, and spirit and Jesus overcame him with the Word of God!

Application:

This means that he will also come after you...but you can get victory too, Just like Jesus!

Here's why....

Jesus came to save you, but make no mistake He came here to do battle with Satan.

He came from heaven to earth, invaded the sphere of Satan's influence and territory.

He came Un-welcomed by the masses and hated by Satan.

He came to overcome the enemy!

In Jesus inaugural address at the synagogue in Nazareth He quoted Isaiah 61:1.

[He opened with the word]

“The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;²

Jesus saw humanity as bound, blind, brokenhearted and bruised and behind enemy lines.

He saw the disastrous effects of Satan’s control on peoples lives, health, well-being.

Through Jesus ministry He was constantly confronting the forces of hell and casting them out!

[Can I get a witness?]

He opened the eyes of the blind and He’s still opening the eyes of those blinded by Satan.

He still sets the captive free.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Is 61:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus saw the destructive power of Satan and did something about it!
(Hallelujah!)

As we talk and understand Spiritual Warfare we must start and end at
the cross of Christ.

Satan has no right, authority over the believer no matter what he may
claim or contend.

He is a trouble-maker, trespasser on God's earth and has claimed to
be the king of this Earth.

He's not my king, or master, or lord, or object of my allegiance or my
loyalty.

To believe He is the king of this world is treason to the Cross because
Jesus refused to bow down & worship Satan in the wilderness (Matt.
4.8-10).

[Can I get a witness?]

If Jesus would've bowed the knee that day He could have avoided the
cross, betrayal, rejection, and despisement. But he chose to suffer for
us and to get victory over the devil.

Most of us see the cross for the sacrifice Christ made for our sins, as
the demonstration of God's unconditional love for us, and that is true,
but it all that happened that day!

ALSO at the cross, on that Friday there was an unseen cosmic
spiritual war waged that day.

At Calvary Jesus defeated Satan, he crushed the head of the serpent, as it was prophesied in Genesis 3!

Jesus came off the cross victorious over the devil and his fallen angels .

[Can I get a witness?]

As strong as the devil was, he has been overcome and defeated by one stronger!

The devil has never been nor will he ever be equal in power with God.

The powers of darkness were conquered at the cross.

Jesus died, was buried, and rose again from the dead.

He has all power of heaven and earth in his hands!

CHAPTER THREE

Satanic Deception Inside of the Church

Acts 5:1-11

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of *it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

⁷ Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

⁸ And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for

so much?”

She said, “Yes, for so much.”

⁹ Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out.”

¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband.

¹¹ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. ³

INTRODUCTION:

When we come to this passage , we take notice of what it looks like to be a church on fire for God.

It is a refreshing time for the reader because the first century church was a body of believers who loved the lord, one another and the kingdom of God in their lives.

³

The New King James Version. 1982 (Ac 5:1–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Today however we want to look at this same church, and see how the enemy (SATAN) got involved and tried to derail their ministry and stewardship commitments to God and to one another.

This text is loaded with why questions and filled with unanswered assumptions. So let's prayerfully examine the text and see what God wants us to learn about our relationship to Him, one another and our enemy who seeks to do us wrong.

In our text today we come to learn that HYPOCRISY (*pretending to be better than we are*) is the most dangerous spiritual VIRUS that can ever attack the church.

If it (Hypocrisy) should ever spread in her ranks, nothing will be done in spirit and in truth, and the ungodly influence of the wicked one will run rampant in the church.

[This is why Peter in this text believes that it must be confronted and purged from the ranks.⁴]

There are three things we want to examine today. Lets look at their deception, their discovery and their death.

1. THEIR DECEPTION

⁴ Knowles, A. (2001). *The Bible guide* (1st Augsburg books ed.) (542). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of *it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

Notice:

Here we discover that the scripture first identifies the profile of our brother and sister.

His name is Ananias, and it means “the Lord is gracious.” He has a name that reflects how good God has been to him.

His wife is called Sapphira, and her name means “beautiful”. So we have a couple in front of us who God has truly blessed.

They are in a progressive church, and no doubt have become a part of the affluent crowd in the congregation.

They have possessions, they have some prominence, they have position, and they have people that look up to them...

BU SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of *it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

NOTICE:

Here we see the giving ministry of the church taking place.

The Holy Spirit records this because these two who have received so much have in return decided to do so wrong!

They sold a possession of land (it was theirs to sell) however what they did was decided to give the proceeds to the church, but when it came time to do it they 'KEPT BACK' The money and pretended before God that they had given it all.

The word "Kept Back" means to set apart, to separate for oneself. The verb here is declaring what's wrong! It was supposed to be consecrated to God but then it was taken back for their own personal use!

WHY?

Ananias and Sapphira wanted to gain the reputation for being more spiritual than they actually were.

- When the others brought their donations (4:34–37), these two were jealous and wanted the same recognition from the congregation.
- Please keep in mind that their sin was not stealing money from God, because Peter stated in verse 4 that it was in their own power to use the money as they wished.
- Their sin was hypocrisy, trying to appear more spiritual than they really were. This SIN was also rooted in PRIDE!

Question:

Is there anybody here today that knows someone like this?

Do you know somebody whose playing the role right now, but in reality it is really not who they are?

Have you ever played the role like you were somebody, that you were not?

Has pride ever made you misbehave? Made you jealous of someone else? Made you envious of someone else? Made you a hater because of what somebody else has?

The bible said....

³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

Notice:

Here we discover that Peter was a man with Spirit-given discernment. Here we see him exercising the “binding and loosing” power given to him by Christ (Matt. 16:19).

- God revealed to Peter what happened in the unseen realm.
- Peter had discernment from God about the deceit that was taking place before the church.
- God uses the preacher to expose sin, in the congregation.

Notice:

Peter also in his investigative questioning of Ananias, reveals our eternal enemy to us...

He unveils Satan’s plan, position and plot at work in the church.

- Satan had entered the camp and penetrated the hearts of this couple.

- Satan subtly deceived Ananias to sin against God in his head first then his heart.
- Satan then caused him to lie before God and the church.

Peter says why has Satan Filled your heart?...

This is the same verb used of the filling by the Holy Spirit (4:31), when they were in the house...

Satan uses the same filling in the heart of those who are open to his influence. [IN THE CHURCH]

One scholar suggest the following...

“If Satan cannot defeat the church by attacks from the outside, he will get on the inside and go to work (Acts 20:28–31).”

He knows how to lie to the minds and hearts of church members, even genuine Christians, and get them to follow his orders. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, “Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.”

Here it is....

- Satan is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44).
- He lied *to* and *through* this couple, and the lie led to their deaths.
- When God judged Ananias and Sapphira, He was also judging Satan.

- He was letting everybody know that He would not tolerate deception in His church.

Notice:

Their sin was *motivated by pride*, and pride is a sin that God especially hates and judges (Prov. 8:13). It was Daniel Defoe that called pride “the first peer and president of hell.”

Indeed, it was pride that transformed Lucifer into Satan (Isa. 14:12–15), and it was pride

(“Ye shall be as God!”) that caused our first parents to sin (Gen. 3).

Pride opens the door to every other sin, for once we are more concerned with our reputation than our character, there is no end to the things we will do just to make ourselves “look good” before others.

It was Satan that whispered in their ears when the church was praising God for the generous offering that Barnabas had brought!

Nobody but Satan whispered to the couple....

- He said, look you two “You two can also bask in this kind of glory!”
- “You two can make others think that you are as spiritual as Barnabas!”
- Instead of resisting Satan’s approaches, they yielded to him and planned their hell-bound strategy.”

Observation

The bible says...

- Satan the adversary is the father of lies (John 8:44).
- He had entered into Judas (Luke 22:3; John 13:27) and now he has filled the heart of Ananias To *lie* to the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit had been given them to guide them into truth (John 15:13). Here they reject the leading of the Spirit of God and follow *the instructions* of the Evil One.

Application:

Listen closely Church, as we follow Christ...

- This tactic of deception from our enemy is to be paid close attention too!
- This tactic of deception from our enemy is not to be ignored.
- He has some power and persuasion, we must be diligently listening to Christ and aggressively fleeing from Satan!
- He has a unique and diabolical ability to FILL THE HEART with that which is sinful and wicked but appealing to the flesh of the Christian

I notice here that because he cannot stop the church from the outside, he tries to corrode her from the inside!

This church was on the move...Its stewardship was the best; he simply waited around in the sanctuary until he found somebody he could use to disrupt what God was doing in their hearts.

Observation

I learn from this text that Satan is a copy-cat...

- As God was filling them, Satan tried to fill them.
- As God was moving them, Satan was trying to move them.
- As God was encouraging them unto holiness, Satan was encouraging unto disobedience.
- As God was pushing them to oneness, Satan was pushing them to selfishness.

Question:

- Has Satan ever lied to you like this before?
- Has he ever tried to deceive you?
- Has he ever enticed you to lie to God?
- Has he ever tried to get you to elevate yourself in the sight of others?
- Has he ever tried to get you to promote yourself?
- Has he ever got you to lie to God about your commitments to Him?
- Is he doing right now, and you have just discovered what is happening in your mind and heart?

The bible says that Peter asked 3 powerful questions of his church members...

[THREE POWERFUL QUESTIONS]

⁴ While *it* remained, was it not your own? And after it *was sold*, was it not in your own *control*? Why have you conceived this *thing* in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

Notice:

Peter identifies here in this text the satanic-lie that was in the couple's heart! [Their sinful-motif is unveiled before the church.]

Was it not your own?

Even though they were not obligated to give up all of their money from the sale, because they acted like they would, and told God that they would and put on a show like they would, it became sin in their hearts!

Peter asked a question of Ananias why have you *conceived* this thing?(To put into oneself)

- He nursed the idea, rehearsed the idea, gave his mind and heart over to the idea, and then carried out the scheme from inside his heart! And then he thought only he and his wife knew of the lie.
- Satan gave birth to the idea, to stop the work of the ministry in the church! Satan's work in Ananias heart, caused him to scheme and to lie to God.

Notice:

- Ananias heart had lied to the Spirit of God who was graciously working in the hearts of the believers, leading them to sell their belongings and share with others.
- He told God he would do one thing, but in his heart he knew he would do something else.
- His motive was to be seen by men as living one-way, but in reality he was living another.

Application:

- Is there anybody here guilty this morning?
- Can you relate to Ananias behavior?

- Have you promised God that you would do one thing but you are doing another?

III. Their Death

⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

Notice:

It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:30–31).

Had Ananias and Sapphira judged their own sin, God would not have judged them (1 Cor. 11:31), but they agreed to lie, and God had to deal with them.

Word studies suggest right here that;

“Hearing/...while hearing the rebuke from the preacher... he Fell down!

He fell all of a sudden while listening. Gods words made him weak in the body!

There was a terror that came over Him! Satan had influenced Him, but God would bring him to destruction!

Satan would cause him to think he could fool God. But God would show Him who the fool was!

Satan would make him believe he could be praised by men, But God would show Him that only HE deserves the praise from men!

Observation:

Here we see the first time in the new covenant where God directly deals with sin and disobedience in the church!

- Here we see just how Holy God is!
- Here we see just how powerful the King of glory is!
- Here we see where God is not tolerating “Satanic influence and deception
- Here we see where God not only judges sin, but he addresses the devils influence, in that it is not allowed to dwell in the church.

Notice:

- Satan will not be able to do this again in this fellowship!
- Satan will not be able to do this again in another’s heart!
- Satan will not be able to deceive another person WITH position, prominence and pride in this church, because God will use Ananias as his example of how He will judge sin in the body!

Application:

The assembly was now unified and magnified, and it therefore multiplied.

This will always happen when an assembly is purged of sin.

Satan works inside the church and tries to divide it, disgrace it, and destroy it; but if we let the Spirit work, we will detect the devil’s operation and avoid church problems.

The Bible said...

⁷ Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not

knowing what had happened.

⁸ And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?”

She said, “Yes, for so much.”

⁹ Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?

Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out.”

¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband.

¹¹ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. ⁵

Notice:

A friend in my library suggests that when we come to the end of this text there are several things that we are not told...

- We are not told Just where the scene was...
- We are not told who was present....
- We are not told where all the other apostles were...
- We are not told how many people did fear fall upon...and how many people were present at the first Holy Confrontation...

⁵

The New King James Version. 1982 (Ac 5:1–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- We are not told where the wife had been all this time?
- Was she already spending the Money?
- Was she already down at the Mall?
- Was she already making plans at the market?
- We are not told why she had not been informed of her husband's death?
- Why did she now appear; was she looking for her husband?

Notice:

Though Luke doesn't give us answers for many things he does give us insight into two things...

It appears that Luke's only goal was to point to the grim outcome of her dastardly-lie with her husband.

And, since She joined him in the conspiracy with the funds. She would now be joining him in death.

Here it is...

Another point of interest concerning their demise is that the Preacher discovered it and uncovered it! And now it was church record because it concerned the church!

The bible said...

“5:8 Peter confronted her about the sale price, just as he had confronted Ananias. “Is this the price you ... got for the land?” he asked her (verse 8). “Yes,” she replied.

Notice:

Once again...even in the confrontation of the preacher, We are again left with questions...

1. Did Peter mention the actual sale price or the reduced sum Ananias had brought?
2. In giving an affirmative answer, was Sapphira confirming her guilt by continuing the lie?

Notice:

Many scholars think that this is the most likely event, and that is why her response is what it is... her response would have been an admission of guilt, and a confession.

Observation

Something very important also is shown in their demise...

[5:9–10] with neither Ananias nor Sapphira “The Preacher” did not pronounce a curse!

- He was not authorized by God to Kill!
- His task is to preach Life!
- Though He knew they had lied to God, he did not have divine power to kill either of them!
- It was His questioning of Sapphira and Ananias’s that left them the opportunity to repent!

There are five major things we can learn from in this text...

- Peter’s role was to confront—not to judge.
- The judgment came from God.
- Peter because of the call on his life had to lay before her the consequences of her actions.

Because she didn’t fear God...She had joined with her husband in “testing” the Spirit of the Lord.

Because of her decision to lie to God and to test the Spirit, she heard the same consequences that her husband heard.

Look at Peters Response...

“The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

Observation:

This was the first time Sapphira had heard of her husband’s death, and she fell down immediately at Peter’s feet, dead.

Here it is...

Ananias was dead and buried, and Sapphira did not even know it!

She didn’t know it because Satan always keeps his servants in the dark, while God guides His servants in the light (John 15:15).

By committing this sin...They were actually defying God and daring Him to act—and He acted, with swiftness and finality.

Now she lay at Peter’s feet, in the place of her money.

She had joined her husband in conspiracy. Now she would join him in the grave.

The Conclusion

The Bible says...

[“Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matt. 4:7).]

We must keep in mind that their sin was not in robbing God of

money but in *lying to Him* and robbing Him of glory.

They were not required to sell the property; and, having sold it, they were not required to give any of the money to the church (Acts 5:4).

But they were required to give God glory, and take no glory for themselves!

Application:

Remember family ... Whatever we possess, God has given to us; we are stewards ,not owners.

Whatever you do Give God the Glory for his stuff and his work in our lives!

He won't share His glory with you or anyone else!

Remember family... We must use what He gives us for His glory alone (see John 5:44).

He won't share His glory with you or anyone else!

Remember family... God loves His church and is jealous over it, for the church was purchased by the blood of God's only begotten Son (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).

Remember family... God won't share His glory with you or anyone else!

Whatever you do Give God the Glory!

Remember family...God's Son came to earth to glorify Him and do His work. Whatever you do give God the Glory!

In His coming He agreed to die! Jesus willingly gave up His life so that we might have eternal life...

He died and was buried in a borrow tomb, but early Sunday morning He rose from the dead with all power of heaven and earth in His hands.

Story:

In 1896, Norman "Kid" McCoy was the welterweight boxing champion. In one of his fights, he learned that his opponent was deaf.

McCoy finally discovered this; and as they were nearing the end of the third round, McCoy stepped back and pointed to his opponent's corner indicating that the bell had rung.

When his opponent turned his head, McCoy unloaded a powerful blow and knocked him out.

It wasn't fair, but it was very effective.

Satan does not play fair and temptation never delivers what it promises.

He too is like this fighter, he will use whatever distraction he can to knock you out .

CHAPTER FOUR

Satanic Affliction in the Church

St. Luke 13:10-17

¹⁰ Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up.

¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.”

¹³ And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

¹⁵ The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it?

¹⁶ So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.⁶

Introduction:

One of the most profound things about spiritual warfare is that it has any many shapes and forms that is displayed in the life of the church. There is spiritual possession, spiritual oppression, spiritual influence and spiritual affliction.

Each and every aspect is deadly, painful and very difficult to navigate.

In our text today, we get to look at spiritual affliction and oppression inside of the synagogue.

A Satanic presence is alive and well and is not only affecting a single person but has an impact on the leadership and membership of the synagogue.

Today's text will reveal three things for the believer; the believers condition, the believers, cure, and the believers conflict.

I. The Believers Conditions

¹⁰ Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity *eighteen years* and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 13:10–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Notice:

When we arrive at this portion of the text we get to see Jesus teaching in the synagogue on the sabbath.

This would not normally be something that was unusual, but here it is exceptionally important because this synagogue had not had the visible presence of God in the house ever before.

There was a spirit in the house, but it wasn't the Lord. Jesus was teaching...Diddasko! He was explaining, expositonally working as the rabbi of record in the worship service.

What a moment! What a treasure! What a day to have Jesus the Logos of God in the preaching place! Incredible.

Secondly, we get to see a new side of Spiritual warfare. In this text we see a woman who has been attacked physically by a demon, who has caused her great bodily harm. He has caused this harm and has comfortably held her hostage in her body for 18 years.

This form of warfare had to be devastating to this child of God. The text gives us the picture of a suffering sister who has endured an assault from a demonic Spirit of Infirmity that has wrecked her life, by physically attacking her spine forcing her to live in a bowed down condition!

In addition to this the evil-spirit picked her out of everyone else in the synagogue to imprisoned.

Notice:

She wasn't possessed, she wasn't influenced, she wasn't oppressed but she was afflicted, and had no one in authority, with authority or who understood authority could do something about it!

18 years she was bullied by this demon...18 years she was controlled and afflicted with the intention on ruining her life! He couldn't and didn't possess her, but he did have permission to afflict her...

This reveals something about the underworld. They won't settle for just possessing a human being, but they will influence situations, they will oppress individuals, they will afflict humans with illness if they have opportunity to do so.

Thirdly, According to Jewish traditions because she was a woman she would have been treated like a second-class citizen.

Here's why....

The culture looked down on all women! They did not honor or esteem them. It was a male driven, dominating culture, and women were seen as property, and because she was a woman, she would have been culturally mistreated by the Jews and the Romans, and then with her physical deformities, other spheres of society would have rejected her also.

This woman has a condition that only God could fix...She has a condition that no man could tame...She has a condition that only the Lord could fix....

once again...The scriptures said that she was physically and forcibly "Bowed together"!

Implying, that it was against her will to be in this manner, the woman was unable to deliver herself! (She tried)

She must have been hideous to look at!

Nevertheless, she was in worship on the Sabbath day!

I take from this passage that despite her ailments and demonic issues she kept coming despite herself!

1. She had a determination to get better!
2. She kept coming to worship, even with the devil attacking her body...
3. She kept coming to worship, even though the evil one went with her...
4. She kept coming to worship, even with the demon at work in her physical body...
5. She kept coming to church with the odds of life held against her...
6. She kept coming to worship, in spite of what she looked like and felt like...
7. She kept coming because she kept looking for something to change her situation

Application

Today somebody here should be encouraged, that your situation is not the first situation to look like it does...

If this woman could keep coming to worship in spite of things going her way, then you can too.

If she could keep coming to worship in spite of the evil one afflicting her body than you can too.

If she could keep coming to worship despite her embarrassment, physical pain, for 18 years, then you can too.

I like this because she helps me to see that If you want to get rid of the demonic affliction in your life, you got to keep coming to the house of the lord.

The house of the lord is the place where you can get freed from all demonic attacks on your life.

The house of the lord is where worship makes a difference in the believer's life, and it helps you to make through whatever you are going through! [don't stop coming to worship]

II. The Believers Cure

¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."

¹³ And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Notice:

When we arrive at this portion of the text we see Jesus respond to a condition of horrific proportions...

A daughter is in need and has been held hostage against her will!

According to the text, when Jesus sees her he calls her to himself!

This is one of the brightest stories in the New Testament!

We get a good look at Jesus willingness to minister to this woman, who has been rejected by men, hated by the underworld, held hostage by pain but is in the house of the lord looking for God to do something on her behalf on the Sabbath day.

Jesus in this text shows us “His divine communication”, he shows us “His divine summons!” This call was a God centered compassion-call, and it was the reason that he called her to Himself!

Secondly, I noticed that within this call he issues a divine command, “Thou art loosed from your infirmity”.

This is beautiful for it reveals the master’s power over the underworld that had taken her captive at their will.

To loose her meant he broke the chain of bondage that held her captive...He loosed her...He pardoned her from her sentence...He snapped the evil sentence that she was serving...And he was the only power in the Universe that could do it!

Thirdly, in a remarkable manner Luke reveals that Jesus laid His hands on her, which also gives us the picture that God is willing to get involved with those who are hurting and suffering at the hand of an evil enemy.

Here it is...

What a touch! What a privilege! What an opportunity! After 18 years of suffering, and seasons of disappointments, and hard days and

nights of being afflicted and oppressed...to have some relief and some freedom and a brand-new beginning, is incredible!

When Jesus touches somebody this is the evidence of the divine at work!

- He touched her and made the difference in her life.
- He touched her and changed her future and her past!
- He touched her and gave her a brand-new start!
- He touched her and made the devil behave!
- He touched her and altered her existence by changing her world completely!

Only a touch from Jesus can make this kind of difference in a person's life.

Application:

If there's anyone in the house who needs evidence that Jesus has all power, then this text is all you need!

If there is anybody wondering If Jesus has power over the demonic, this text is all you need!

If there is anybody here getting tired of waiting on the lord, this text is a good reminder to "hold on" help is on the way!

Just like the woman in this text the believer should hold fast to perseverance so that God can work it out in his own time...

Story:

One day George Mueller began praying for five of his friends. After many months, one of them came to the Lord.

Ten years later, two others were converted. It took 25 years before the fourth man was saved.

Mueller persevered in prayer until his death for the fifth friend, and throughout those 52 years he never gave up hoping that he would accept Christ! His faith was rewarded, for soon after Mueller's funeral the last one was saved.

Perseverance and faith in God makes all the difference in a person's life...[don't give up on God]

III. The Believers Conflict

¹⁴But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath lose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it?"

¹⁶So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.⁷

Notice:

In the final portion of this text we see another personality arise in the lesson. It's the image of the one who has a problem with the sin nature and has conflict with the woman because Jesus decided to change her life!

He is the spiritual leader of this synagogue.

He was supposed to lead people into a God encounter, and or a time of spiritual reflection, yet it appears that he doesn't know God.

His flesh is out of control and so he rejects the idea that people should receive mercy from God on the Sabbath. (Vs.14)

Secondly what we see in this text is that there is a demonic attitude on display in the synagogue.

Instead of there being a spirit of rejoicing for her deliverance and breakthrough there is a protest over what God has done!

No compassion is on display, but conflict is quickly unleashed out on the woman and, on the congregation!

⁷

The New King James Version. (1982). (Lk 13:10–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

This is what I Meant earlier by the demonic influence in the synagogue...for 18 years it not only oppressed the woman, but it influenced the leadership of the house...

For the synagogue ruler to act this way was demonic in and of itself...

1. His behavior was a statement and a spirit that opposed the works of Christ.
2. It was a visible protest of Christ visible presence.
3. It was a public rebuke for Gods mercy in the woman's life.
4. It was an act of aggression by the underworld who was forced to remove his grip on the lady and was angry that God had set her free.

Thirdly, Jesus in return exposes his sin and his sin nature, that was influenced by the underworld!

As a synagogue ruler, he reveals what is really in His heart.

His sin nature has made this man reject the works of God and oppose the move of God inside of God's house!

Here it is...

Jesus in this passage becomes the defender of the weak!
Jesus in this passage declares that this woman is valuable to God and deserves to receive mercy from God.

Look:

The bible said... The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath lose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it?

¹⁶ So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

Here we see Jesus expose the religious leader, his heart, his words, his deception, and who he was following...

Jesus first calls him a hypocrite...an actor with two faces... He said your acting like you are the friend of God, but your other mask reveals who you really are....

Then he gave him an example...he said don't you show relief to your property on the sabbath day...

You say we are not to get relieved from our suffering because of the sabbath, but you give your Ox and your donkey relief from their burdens...

That's hypocritical, you can't give the animal relief and not give the human the same comfort!

Here it is...

So shouldn't this daughter of Abraham, who has been bound for 18 years get some relief?!

The bible said...

When he had said all these things, the scripture said that all his adversaries were ashamed, but all the multitude rejoiced and praised God for what was done by him.

Notice:

According to that statement, he had a house full of enemies...

There were many adversaries that were opposed to him, and that were in opposition to what he had done!

For 18 years this synagogue was a dark place! But now, Christ had turned the light on! His presence was there, his power was there, and prominence was on display.

Even so, conflict was in the house! Conflict was present even though grace was in effect! Conflict was there to oppose the work of God in the child of God's life! Conflict was there because a satanic influence was there...

Listen, there are some places that the evil one likes to dwell in...there are some places that the evil one is very comfortable in hanging out in.

There are some leadership- slots that have his personality written on them...

God wants to move and when he moves conflict arises....

This woman had been held hostage, God set her free, but conflict met her on the day of her celebration...

Application:

Oh my brothers and my sisters, don't get discouraged about conflict because it comes with Christianity...

Where ever God is working on the earth, grace is usually followed by conflict...

It's the proof of the satanic residue of opposition to the things of God!

Conflict comes with Christianity!

Application:

What we can learn from this message is that sin is in God's house and it always opposes what God is doing in the lives of his people.

The sin nature is out of control, and demonic affliction, influence and oppression is alive and well!

In Gods house, the demonic influence, and oppression of the saints must be combatted with God's word, (Logos) Jesus the Christ.

Story:

Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins, was talking to a reporter about a player's mistake in practice. He said, "We never let an error go unchallenged. Uncorrected errors multiply."

Then the reporter said, "Isn't there benefit in overlooking one small flaw?"

Shula said, "What is a small flaw?" I think about that all day long. What is a small flaw? I see that with my children. I've let a lot of

things slide by because I was too tired. I didn't want another confrontation. But uncorrected errors do multiply. You've got to face them some day. You might as well face them on the spot. If I could do it over again with my children, I'd face the errors on the spot. It's easier on them and on you.

That works in relationships with anyone. If there's something under the surface, something you sense, you might as well just bring it right out. Face it right then. Success lies in the details. Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.⁸

Here it is...

Jesus deals with the conflict in his house...he doesn't let it slide...he wants to correct the error in their hearts!

He always checks us when we get hypocritical...or when we disobey...

We are the master piece of God, so he can't just let the sin in your life go unchecked!

Christianity comes with conflict...sometimes the conflict is from the world, and sometimes it comes from God...but its going to come to the believer!

The bible said...

⁸ <https://www.sermonsearch.com/sermon-illustrations/1077/success-lies-in-the-details/>

¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.⁹

Conclusion:

I got to leave you now, but I can't leave you without celebrating what Jesus did in the life of this woman and this congregation...

The bible said, all of them rejoiced! They all rejoiced for the glorious things that were done by him!

They rejoiced because...

He gave sight to the blind.

He gave hearing to the deaf.

He gave healing to the sick.

He gave hope where there was none.

He gave a voice to the voiceless.

He gave victory to those who were oppressed by the evil one.

He got praised for the works of being the messiah!

As the Messiah He finished his work at the cross of Calvary!

Out on the cross the Master change the condition of mankind.

Out on the cross the master gave the cure for mankind.

Out on the cross the master embraced the conflict for all of humanity.

⁹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 13:10–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He died was buried and as raised again from the dead with all power of heaven and earth in his hands...

CHAPTER SIX

A designed dilemma for the believer

Luke 22:31-32

³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”¹⁰

Introduction:

We have had the privilege of studying about spiritual warfare in the church over the past 3 weeks. One week one we talked about when the devil deceived members in the church. On week two we talked about how to get victory over the devil in the church. On last week we discussed about satanic affliction the church. Today we want to look at Satan’s plan for your life.

You might be asking yourself why is pastor preaching an 8 week series of spiritual warfare this summer?

The answer to that is because the evil one who hates you and who opposes all that the church has been called to do in the earth, is raging like never before.

He is relentless with his vicious attacks and his deceitful rhetoric that is strategically aimed at destroying your soul.

¹⁰ *The New King James Version. (1982). (Lk 22:31–32). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.*

As your pastor, I want to make you aware of what you need to know in order to avoid falling into the snare of the devil.

Back Ground:

It is the masters last night on earth before his crucifixion. He is setting up the guidelines for one of the greatest ordinances ever given to the church! (The lords supper)

Jesus announces during the meal that he is going to be betrayed and sets forth a lesson for the Peter and the disciples that we might better understand the doctrine of spiritual warfare in the church.

In his final instructions from the table, Jesus exposes the enemy, and reveals his satanic plot against the disciples.

There are two things to look at in this text....

The disciples problem and the disciples position. To understand this designed dilemma, Lets study this passage and grow in the Grace of God as followers of Jesus Christ.

I. The Disciples Problem

³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

Notice:

When we arrive at this portion of the text we get to see a divine look behind the veil of the supernatural. This text is designed to equip us

to understand why God does what he does in the earth to his disciples....

Jesus unveils the evil plot of the wicked one in the unseen realm and his evil plan against the disciples.

Here it is...

Jesus exposes the enemy for who he really is and what he really wants to do in the life of the followers of Christ.

Secondly, according to Jesus words, Satan; the devil, God's enemy, mans foe, has asked him for permission to destroy Peter.

In the original language the word "Desired" is used. And it means to demand for trial, that he may have you that he may sift you as wheat. (sin-ee-ad-zo) to riddle through a sieve.

Here it is ...

Jesus is letting Peter know, that he has ...

- A spiritual enemy (Satan) who is asking about his demise.
- He has a spiritual enemy that He is unable to see in the flesh.
- He has a spiritual enemy that He cannot over power for he is stronger, smarter, wiser and more sophisticated than the disciple (in the flesh).

- This enemy has picked out the disciple to pick on the disciple, because of his leadership, follow-ship, obedience and his love for the brethren and commitment to Christ.

Application:

Every believer has the same problem that Peter has....

We have to be made aware of the true reality, that Peter was made aware of.

Satan hates you! Satan wants to sift you! Satan has picked you out for destruction!

Story:

Charles Spurgeon used this parable to illustrate the agenda of the Devil...

He said, "There was once a tyrant who summoned one of his subjects into his presence and ordered him to make a chain.

The poor blacksmith (that was his occupation) had to go to work and forge the chain.

When it was done, he brought it into the presence of the tyrant and was ordered to take it away and make it twice the length.

He brought it again to the tyrant, and again he was ordered to double it.

Back he came when he had obeyed the order, and the tyrant looked at it then commanded the servants to bind the man hand and foot with the chain he had made and cast him into prison."

Spurgeon continued with an application. "That is what the devil does with men. He makes them forge their own chain, and then binds them hand and foot with it and casts them into outer darkness."

Here it is....

Satan hates you! Satan wants to sift you! Satan has picked you out for destruction!

The Disciples Position:

³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”¹¹

Notice:

When we come to this portion of the text we get to see a divine and sacred place for the one who is going to be attacked!

His position is a glorious position. Though he is under the scrutiny of the evil ones scope of oppression he is yet...

Called by God, the Creator of heaven and earth, hand picked, and chosen for God's honor & glory.

The disciple in this verse has been set aside for a specific purpose and plan.

As Gods messenger, he has been used by God in the earthly realm as his agent and messenger: to do the bidding of God.

Notice:

This is why Satan hates him... he is jealous of his relationship with God. (Peter the disciple is made in the image of God.) Satan is not made in the image of God and can never be!

¹¹ *The New King James Version. (1982).* (Lk 22:31–32). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Secondly, the text says that Jesus has done something on behalf of his disciple, Peter...

He has given him divine protection for the trial that he is going to endure....

He has prayed for Peter, and interceded on his behalf to the Father

Here it is...

- God talked to himself about Peter's situation.
- Because Jesus Prayed we already know that the Father was well pleased with, everything that he did, therefor he Prays to please his fathers own desire.

This picture reveals the narrative that God is both for Peter and allows hardships against Peter!

Jesus is setting him up for success in the trial, and then allowing him to be set up for the trial....

He is using the enemy to produce something in Peter, so that Peter can produce something that pleases God!

What a profound look...

Story:

The daily bread devotional once had a column that read....

“God sometimes allows us to enter into discouraging situations for the primary purpose of testing our faith.”

“At such times we must refuse to give up in despair. Like Jonah in the belly of the great fish, we must turn to the Lord when our soul is

fainting within us, trusting Him completely.”

“James H. McConkey wrote, 'What can you do when you are about to faint physically?’”

“You can't DO anything! In your weakness you just fall upon the shoulders of some strong loved one, lean hard, and rest until your strength returns.”

The same is true when you are tempted to faint under adversity. The Lord's message to us is be still, and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10).

“Hudson Taylor was so feeble in the closing months of his life that he said to a dear friend, I'm so weak that I can't work or read my Bible, and I can hardly pray.”

I can only lie still in God's arms like a little child and trust.'

And that is all the Heavenly Father asks of you when you grow weary in the fierce fires of affliction.”

Rest in Him when you cant do anything else...

According to this text

Jesus said, I have prayed that your faith, fail not....

Jesus has asked the father for the faith of Peter, to be sustained through the trial of his life....

He has asked for the father to keep it intact, inspire of what he is about to go through...

I believe I understand why....

The bible says that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Here it is

It's the stuff you hope is there but can't see when you're going through it....

That's the stuff that Jesus ask the father to give and sustain in Peter, while he was under the attack of Satan...

Can I turn the light on?

I.Jesus gave Satan the O.K to get Peter!

II.He didn't stop the attack from happening!

III.I believe that Jesus wanted peter to learn dependability/reliability....

IV.I believe that Jesus wanted peter to lean totally on him in his trials and persecution, that he would leave his self sufficiency.

V.I believe that Jesus wanted to convert-peter to turn into another form and direction.

The bible said, that he said when you are converted (turned into

another form) strengthen the brethren.

I believe that Jesus wanted conversion because that's the stuff that real soldiers are made of!

Application:

We can learn from this lesson that

- God uses trials and tribulations to shape and or convert believers!
- We can learn that God uses trials and tribulations to conform us into his image is his divine plan and designed dilemma.

Story:

In Dr. Tim Kimmel's book *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*, he has a section called *Designed Dilemmas*. Kimmel is convinced that most modern parents pamper their kids to the point where they don't ever have to face situations that force them to grow up, mature, learn responsibility.

Kids don't have the work or chore responsibilities they used to have. And they're protected from difficult situations that might build character.

We make our kids' lives too easy. Our kids need regular, designed dilemmas that force them to demonstrate responsibility.

He tells the story of the time he took his young son Cody to the mall. He took his hand and explained to him that when they got inside, Cody would have to stick close to him so they wouldn't get separated.

But every time Cody saw something interesting, he'd dash ahead of his dad.

After 3 or 4 times warning him not to do it again, he did it again. This time, Kimmel let him go. It took awhile, but soon Cody looked around and realized that dad was gone. He was alone. Dr. Kimmel hid.

He slipped into the crowded racks of clothes and kept an eye on his boy. Soon the boy was running in circles, in tears, looking for dad.

It was hard to watch, but he knew he needed to wait a little while longer. Finally, he moved into the open.

Cody ran into his arms. They sat down together on a bench in the mall. This time, Dad had Cody's ear. He listened. That was a designed dilemma to get his son to stick close to dad.

Here it is...

Jesus knew that Peter needed a designed dilemma to help him trust Him. So He let the evil one sift him... to teach peter what he needed him to know!

Conclusion:

I got to leave you now...but according to the outcome of this designed dilemma

- Peter has to learn in the garden not to depend on his own strength to disperse his own crowd...

- Peter has to learn at the high priest house not to depend on his own wisdom/courage to follow Christ.
- Peter has to learn that he is not all of that, but that he is to rely and depend on God for everything.

Notice:

I've learned from this study that

- Gods men were not made to rely or depend on themselves.

I've learned from this study that

Being self-dependent and self reliant is, very painful and costly to the spirit, damaging to the ego and it causes Peter isolation from God.

I've learned from this study that

Peter wept bitterly as he learned these lessons, and that these lessons didn't come easy...but they came through the heartaches and pains of designed dilemmas that are sent by God to sharpen us for the journey.

I got to leave you now....

But here in this text, Jesus sets the example for how we should walk through designed dilemmas...

In order to endure our trials we must use dependability and reliability...

These lessons cost him his life!

Jesus depended on the father in the garden of Gethsemane! But endured a designed dilemma!

Jesus relied on the father for earthly instructions! And he endured a

designed dilemma.

- From his birth to the cross he was dependent on the father...
- “Through Calvary’s trials he depended on the father...”

We see his Dependability on the triune God manifested in his words while he was dying.... “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”!

We see his Reliability on the triune God manifested in his words while he was dying.... “Father into thy hands I commend my spirit”.

Here it is ...The father depended on the son & the son on the spirit to redeem humanity...

He took the sting out of death. He took victory over the grave.

He rose from the dead with all power of heaven & earth in his hands.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Judas In Me

Luke 22:1-6

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.

² And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.

³ Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.

⁴ So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.

⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.

⁶ So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.¹²

Introduction:

One of the most frightening things on this journey is the fact that as a Christian I can sometime misbehave. (You too) And in these hours of wicked behavior we often times do things, and say things, that hurt other people.

¹² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 22:1–6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

I want to suggest to you this morning that when these times come up that they are not always your fault. You have an enemy. An enemy, who is seeking to destroy you, misuse and abuse you.

When I was a young man there was a show on television called, the Flip Wilson show. And Flip Wilson had a character on his show called Geraldine. Geraldine was loud, disrespectful, out of control and full of excuses.

I will never forget the time she did something evil to another character, her excuse for doing this was “I did it because the Devil made me do it”.

All though it was a joke there is a theological truth to her excuse. Whether you know it or not, there is a devil and he does make people misbehave!

(Can I get a witness?)

When we read today’s text we see Judas a pseudo disciple of Christ doing something that he should have never done. All because he was influenced by the Devil and made to betray Christ.

The frightening truth about this is **THAT ALL OF US HAVE AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER**, have been just like Judas.

You and I both have betrayed JESUS in some area of our lives. In fact, somebody looking my way this morning, is playing the Judas right now.

Example:

Perhaps you too have given Christ up for money, fame, relationships, careers, creature comforts, and a host of other temporary thrills. (There is a Judas in You.)

I stopped by to tell us today, that before we cut up Judas we better be ready to examine our own hearts, because there is a little Judas in all of us.

We may not admit to it publicly, but if the truth police pulled you to the curb today, they could easily arrest you for some act of betrayal against God.

The sad thing about this text is Judas was handpicked by the master to be one of his disciples.

- He had a ministry in the first church; and gave it all up!
- He was trusted to be in the leadership, and gave it all up!
- Judas hung around Jesus, but yet never made him Lord.

I.Judas didn't want the life that Christ could give, so when he got tired of Jesus and he betrayed HIM for Money.

The word Betrayal according to Webster means to lead astray, to SEDUCE, to deliver to an enemy by treachery or to fail or desert someone in time of need.

- This is what Judas did; he faked His love for Jesus.
- He seduced people into believing that he was all in, but was a traitor the whole time.
- He delivered Jesus over in an act of treachery.
- When the other disciples needed Him most, he deserted them.

Background:

It was time for the Passover feast; the annual celebration had fell upon Jerusalem once again. Every Jewish family was required to make a pilgrimage to this Holy City.

They came to remember what God had done for them when they left slavery in Egypt. It was a week of celebration, reflection, and worship.

But this Passover was different. During this Passover there was murder in the air. Those who were running the temple and the religious affairs of the country were filled with contempt and satanic influence.

Jesus was on their hit list, because of his fame among the people.

- They hated that Jesus had miraculous power
- They hated that Jesus claimed to be the messiah.
- They hated that miracles were done by his hands.
- They hated that Jesus teachings were razor sharp and cut every time they heard it.
- They hated Jesus and they wanted him dead.

The Bible Says that while they were plotting their evil scheme the UNDER-WORLD was on the move!

There are three things we must examine in this narrative today. We want to see how Satan entered Judas, how Satan sent Judas, and how he paid Judas.

Satan Entered Judas

3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

When we come to this portion of the text we discover that Mark says the chief priests were in a meeting down in Jerusalem and Jesus was at a dinner party up in Bethany.

While they were trying to figure out a way to kill him quietly, SATAN crept into the party (at Bethany) and tugged at Judas Heart.

Observation:

The text says *Satan* entered Judas:

[Satan] Our adversary, our accuser, the prince of evil spirits and the personality of evil! Was wandering in the party where Jesus was.

As Satan was wondering through the room looking for a victim and a vessel he saw something in Judas he could use.

Observation:

The activity of the underworld is real. If he doesn't mind entering the room where Jesus is, you know he don't mind entering the room where we are.

Satan had already influenced the chief priest and Pharisees to come up with a plan to kill Jesus, and now he is looking for another option to help his cause.

When Satan Saw that Judas saw the value of the alabaster box, and the praise and adoration for the master he recognized that Judas wanted what Jesus was Receiving!

Satan recognized the **AVARICE IN JUDAS HEART** and He jumped on top of it. And because of this Satan had an avenue to take and influence-control of his mind!

- He didn't possess him.
- He brought him under his influence.

- First He deceived his mind and then He took his thoughts captive!
- He captures him with “Avarice” A strong, excessive desire for wealth or gain, GREEDINESS, COVETOUSNESS and Lust.

Here it is ...

Satan literally filled his mind with an evil passion, and then this influenced led him to betray his Master.

Satan had already set the stage in Jerusalem, he just needed a vessel to carry it out.

The devil recognizes Avarice, because this is the same thing that got the devil kicked out of heaven!

This is how it was so easy for him to recognize in Judas.

Application:

- Every now and then in this life, we act Just like Judas!
- Every now and then in this life we want people to praise us!
- Every now and then in this Life we want the adoration that belongs to God!
- Every now and then in this Life we want the blessing of somebody worshipping us!

And when our wants get out of control, they can lead us to the
AVARICE of sin!

Satan has a way of creeping into our heads, and hearts, causing
us to despise the things of God!

Here it is...

Satan is always lurking about looking for those who hunger for greed,
wealth, lust, and covetousness.

The Devil seeks to destroy them and their witness. Once he entered
Judas he had a control he did not want to let go.

The truth is that Satan delights in sending others to do his work in the
earth!

Story:

It is said that Satan once called all of his messengers of hell and said
he wanted to send one of them to earth to deceive the women and
men and destroy their souls.

He asked which one would want to go. One creature came forward
and said, "I will go."

Satan said, "If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?" He
said, "I will tell the children of men that there is no heaven."

Satan said, "They will not believe you, for there is a bit of heaven in
every human heart. In the end everyone knows that right and good
must have the victory. So no you may not go!"

Then another came forward, darker and more sinister than the first. Satan said, "If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?"

He said, "I will tell them there is no hell." Satan looked at him and said, "Oh, no; they will not believe you, for in every human heart there's a thing called conscience, an inner voice which testifies to the truth that not only will good be triumphant, but that evil will be defeated. You may not go either!"

Then one last creature came forward, this one from the darkest place of all. Satan said to him, "And if I send you, what will you say to women and men to aid them in the destruction of their souls?"

He said, "I will tell them there is no hurry." Satan said, "Go!"

Did you catch it?

The devil has messengers to do his work in the earth. Just as he sent Judas, he desires to send you and I to do his work in the church, the earth, and in the hearts of men! He always sends them with a message of deception...

II. Satan Sends Judas

4 And Judas went to the chief priests and *the officers of the temple guard* and discussed with them how he *might betray Jesus*.

Notice:

When we arrive at this portion of the text we discover that after the devil entered Judas, he sent Judas on his first mission!

Because he had access to him he could now do to with him whatever he desired to do with him...

- Because the devil had his mind, Judas would do what he never thought he would do.
- Because the devil had his mind, Judas would sell out the master.
- Because the devil had his mind, Judas would forget about all that Jesus had done for him with him and in his presence.
- Because the devil had his mind, Judas would cash in his relationship with Jesus for a few pieces of silver.
- Because the devil had his mind, Judas would do the unthinkable.

Observation:

Somewhere between the party's end and the fellowship meal, Satan took him by the hand and led him directly into an evil situation.

Because Judas was working for the Devil now, he had a real problem he was facing...

- Judas's problem was that Avarice had invaded his heart.
- Judas's problem was Satan wanted to destroy him.
- Judas's problem was he was drawn away by his own lust for power.
- Judas wanted what didn't belong to him, and the desire of it possessed his whole being.

Application:

The Judas in us is the same way!

- The Judas in Us wants what is not his!
- The Judas in Us wants what he can't have!
- The Judas in Us, wants what will destroy us!
- The Judas in Us, wants what the devil wants!
- The Judas in Us, wants what is deceiving!
- The Judas in Us, is in Love with the AVARICE of Life!

I stopped by to tell somebody today:

- Beware of the Judas in You!
- Beware of wanting the things of this world!
- Beware of wanting what only belongs to God!
- You can't have the Adoration of God!
- You can't have the Worship of God!
- You can't have the Praise of God!

Beware family, because, Satan wants to corrupt your passions, and make you act like someone you are not!

Beware family, Satan has some power, he has some influence, he has some tricks to destroy you and some stuff you have never seen before!

Don't engage in conversation with him, the bible says flee from the appearance of evil.

When those deceiving-thoughts, sinful and wicked ideas rise up in your heart and your head, make a bee-line for the word of God, it is the sword of the Spirit and it can help you in the attack of the enemy.

Here it is....

Satan was so powerful that;

- He encouraged Jealousy in Judas...
- He encouraged hatred in Judas...
- He encouraged envy in Judas...
- He encouraged wrath in Judas...
- He encouraged greed in Judas...
- He encouraged betrayal in Judas...
- If he can encourage it in Judas, then he can encourage it in you!

The bible says that Satan is the accuser of the brethren; he is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour! Judas's problem is our problem.

Story:

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth.

We can't even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken.

"So let them go to church. Let them have their conservative lifestyles. But steal their time so they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ."

"Here is how I want you to do this. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day."

"But how shall we do this?" shouted one of his angels?

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent numerous schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then borrow, borrow, borrow."

Convince the wives to go to work and the husbands to work 6-7 days a week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their life-styles.

Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work."

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play the latest beats whenever they drive, to keep the TV, the cable stations going constantly in their homes."

And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ.

Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day and invade their driving moments with billboards.

Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.”

”Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from it exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week.”

”Don't let them go out in nature. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions.”

”Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ.

Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause.”

Well, in the end it was quite a convention. The evil demons went eagerly to their assignments, causing the Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there.

Question:

Has the devil been successful in his scheme? You be the judge.¹³

According to this text he got Judas, and off he went to try and do the will of the devil, without even knowing he was being deceived!

Satan Pays Judas

5 They were delighted and agreed to *give him* money.

6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Notice:

When we arrive at this final verse we see that after he sent Judas, he paid Judas for his diabolical service.

After Satan connected the deal, there was a diabolical joy! All of hell was happy when religion and greed made plans to betray Jesus.

I was arrested in this text after I found out the devil will pay you to betray Jesus!

The devil will actually give you cash for your sinful behavior!

The devil will make folks pleased because you have decided to go against GOD!

Example:

¹³ <https://bible.org/illustration/how-satan-keeps-christians-christ>

- There is a lot of this going on today! Satan is still paying people to betray the Lord!
- People are selling their souls for a few dollars and betraying JESUS every week in their lives.
- Christians are staying away from the Truth in order to collect a few quarters.

The desires of these HIRELINGS are a disgrace to the calling of being a disciple.

This text tells me that SATAN has his messengers and GOD has HIS!
I noticed in this text thatSATAN WOULD PAY JUDAS, BUT JUDAS WOULD PAY TOO!

- Judas would pay a price he knew not of...
- Judas would pay a price too heavy to bare...
- Judas would pay a price that we talk of today...
- Judas would pay a price that cost him his soul...
- Judas would pay a price for all of eternity

Here it is ...

1. Because of his greed, he WOULD PAY!
2. Because of his lust for power, he WOULD PAY!
3. Because of his WORSHIP OF cash, he WOULD PAY.

4. He was now the tool of Satan, and Satan would work him like a cheap tool. He had sold himself to the enemy

Notice:

The behavior of Judas was inconsistent with that of being a follower of Christ.

- When he consented with evil, he gave his approval to do what was wrong.
- When he consented with evil he agreed to do the wrong thing.
- When he consented with evil, he cast his vote for the devil.
- When he consented to do wrong, he had crossed that line to do evil.
- After he crossed the line he had a role to play!
- After he crossed the line he had expectations put upon him!
- After he crossed the line he was expected to produce!
- After he crossed the line he was an employee of the devil!

Application:

- When you as a child of God, give your consent to do wrong it is evil!

- When you as a child of God consent to tear someone down, it is evil!
- When you as a child of God participate in adultery, it is evil!
- When you as a child of God consent to malicious activity against your brother or sister in Christ you have crossed the Line of betrayal. (it is evil)

The behavior of the Christian must not be inconsistent with following Christ!

When we consent with evil in the church, we give approval to do what was wrong.

When we consent with evil in the church we agree to do wrong.

When we consent with evil in the church, we cast our vote for the diabolical.

When we consent with evil in the church, we cross the line to do evil.

After we cross the line we have a diabolical role to play.

After we cross the line we have evil expectations put upon us.

After we cross the line we are expected to produce.

After we cross the line other evil men are lurking to play their part too.

Story:

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target.

Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner.

As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked and grieved.

In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes."

But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen."

Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper."

Sally just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help."

She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck.

Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you.

I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done, the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.).

Whatever it is, you need to know that God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing, and he forgives you!

Did you catch it?

Don't keep working for the devil and enduring his abuse. Don't do like Judas, get out while you can....

Conclusion:

JUDAS left the secret meeting and went back to be with the brothers, and every time he got a chance he calculated his next move!

Every hour His heart got more determined to do the wrong thing!
There was no turning around for Judas! In His heart and in His mind
JESUS had to GO!

Application:

Somebody here today is feeling this way! Perhaps you are just like
Judas, and you are too far in now and JESUS has got to GO!

YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO GODS!

SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO GO!

Somebody here TODAY has committed and connected with Evil to
betray the Master!

- Your plans are made!
- Your trip is Booked!
- Your hotel is secured!
- Your flight is paid for!
- Your lies have been told!

You are just like Judas and you are all in!

I need to tell you that with Judas there was no return! Once he
denied Jesus, his life was over. (He could not be saved)

But You've got a chance today!

- You got a chance to escape the pull of the enemy!
- You got a chance to miss divorce court!
- You got a chance to miss the abortion clinic!
- You got a chance to miss the dope house!
- You got a chance to escape losing your virginity!
- You got a chance to do the right thing, for the right reason!
- You got a chance to be saved, before it is too late!

DON'T DO LIKE JUDAS, and make a terrible decision!

- DON'T TAKE THE LORDS SUPPER in the upper room, AND ACT LIKE YOU HAVE NOT BETRAYED HIM! [Like Judas did]
- DON'T DIP YOUR HAND IN THE DISH, AND SMILE IN HIS FACE! [Like Judas did]
- DON'T TAKE THE CUP, AND DRINK THROUGH YOUR BETRAYAL. [Like Judas did]
- DON'T MEET HIM IN THE GARDEN AND BETRAY HIM WITH A KISS. [Like Judas did]

Instead repent today and run to the cross where you can see the king of glory hanging there for your sins.

- Run to the cross where you can see the nails in his hands for you.
- Run to the cross where you can be forgiven for all of your sins.
- Run to the cross where you can be revived, cleansed and saved!
- Run to the cross where salvation is free.
- Run to the cross where the blood of Jesus can make you whole.
- Run to the cross where you can be redeemed.

At the cross he died for the Judas in us!

He was buried in a borrowed tomb!

And early Sunday morning he rose from the dead with all power of heaven and earth in His hands.

Story

A student, vile of mind, once filled the walls of his "den" at college with evil pictures. And one day when he did not expect her, his mother paid him a visit. She sat in his room and he knew she saw these evil things.

Not a word of comment did she offer, but she went to a picture shop and bought the finest likeness she could get of Jesus Christ, and sent it to her son.

When next she visited his room, there was not an evil picture in it, but on the wall in solitary grandeur was the big, fine picture of the Savior.

"You know, mother," he said in a shamefaced way, "I found the old, bad pictures would not go with this one, and so they had to come down and go out."

She had solved his problem not by subtraction, but by addition.

Did you catch it?

You don't get rid of the Judas in you by taking it away yourself, you get rid of it by adding the mind of Christ...

And by adding Jesus every day to your thoughts, you solve the Judas complex of the heart!

CHAPTER EIGHT

RESOURCES FOR THE BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10–18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord
And in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you
may be able to stand against the wiles of the
devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and
blood, but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the
Heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil
Day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist
with truth, having put on the breastplate of
righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the
preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with
which you will be able to quench all the fiery

Darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for All the saints.

Introduction

Over the last 8 weeks we have looked intently at the spiritual-warfare that takes place in the Local church.

On week one we talked about what happened in the early church when the devil caused two believers to lie to the Holy Spirit.

On week two we talked about the satanic Attempt to get Jesus to sin in the wilderness.

On week three we looked at a woman who was attacked in the synagogue with a spiritual affliction.

On week four we looked at Simon Peter and Satans desire to sift him as wheat.

On week five we looked at the demonic attack on a community called Gadara.

On week six we examined the betrayal of Judas and how Satan entered his heart and made him betray Jesus.

And on week seven we talked about the satanic disruptions in the church, when Jesus came to Capernaum.

Today we want to end the series looking at how to use Gods resources for the battle, in the church when it comes to spiritual warfare.

There are 4 things we can discover as a church with resources in the spiritual war...Paul gives us insight through Paul's exhortation to the believer, Paul's explanation for the believer, and Paul's edification for the believer and Paul's ending to the believer.

Lets begin the journey and Un-pack these truths for living.

Paul's Exhortation

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord
And in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you
may be able to stand against the wiles of the
devil.

Notice:

Paul begins our text with concluding his
message, He is closing here, but before he
Does he has a last exhortation to give!

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. The two words
used in this sentence are chosen carefully by Paul...

The word Lord is the greek word “Kurios” it means the supreme one, who exercises complete supernatural authority over the world...He is in complete control and there are none equal to him.

He then uses the word power, and when it is used in the greek it is pronounced “Kratos” and it means the ability to do things with skills and strength.

Here it is...

Be strong in the one who is in complete control and his ability to do things with his sovereign skills and strength!

And then he adds to the sentence by using the word “might.” This word is also pronounced as power. It is a double use of the word, here it is defined as one who has the ability to do things with authority!

Then he commands the reader to something in the present tense...
“Put on the whole armor of God”....

In other words Paul begins to use military Imagery to discuss military matters!

In his own militant way...He is saying stay strong in the Lord and in the authority of his dominion in the Universe, because Jesus is in control, no matter what you are experiencing, encountering or embattling.

Here it is....

This is soldier language for those who are Engaged in the war. It is a war of victory, a

war of strategy and a war of purpose...

And Paul is encouraging them to trust in what they know about Jesus, what he has done and in who He is!

The bible says...

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Secondly, when we come to this portion of the text we discover that Paul commanded us to dress out so we can stand up!

Paul equates standing for God with wearing the armor, in other words without having this On, you can't stand up.

Here it is ...

After commanding us to be strong he calls us to do something with our calling....Be strong
And suit up and stand strong....

He also describes what and who we are standing against...

Thirdly, after we do these three things...
He says that we must be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil...

The word "wiles" in the greek language is the

Word “methodia’s” or methods.

It implies that Satan has numerous methods
That he uses in spiritual warfare.

Here it is...

It’s a battle of strategic dimensions with all sorts of ways and means
that the devil uses to destroy you.

Story:

In 1982, "ABC Evening News" reported on an
unusual work of modern art--a chair affixed to a
shotgun.

It was to be viewed by sitting in the chair and
Looking directly into the gun-barrel.

The gun was loaded and set on a timer to fire at an undetermined
moment within the next hundred years.

The amazing thing was that people waited in
Lines to sit and stare into the shell's path! They
all knew the gun could go off at point-blank
range at any moment, but they were gambling
that the fatal blast wouldn't happen during
THEIR minute in the chair.

Wasn’t this foolish? They knew of the method of destruction yet
played with it like it was a
game...

Paul is warning us about Satans methods, because many are willing to sit-in the chair and look down the barrel taking a chance to see when the gun of satanic destruction might go off.

Paul's Explanation

12 For we do not *wrestle against flesh and blood*, but against *principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*.

Notice:

The second thing we observe in this text is Paul decides to explain what he means.

He says that we are not engaged in fighting Human-beings... but rather we are fighting spirits.

And as he describes this he changes metaphors right in the middle of the discussion...

He changes from the soldier-metaphor, to the athletic-metaphor! He uses the word

“wrestle” (Palee is an old word from palloo) It means to throw or to swing...

Here it is...

In the Greek times it was a contest between

two forces until one hurls the other down and
Holds Him down and destroys to the death their opponent! It was a
face to face conflict to the finish.

Then he describes the types of enemies we are fighting...It is 4 of
them... It is clear that we are once again in a battle with spirits.

They are those who have diabolical assignments!

Here they are ... "*principalities, against*
powers, against the rulers of the darkness of
This age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness.

These are all wicked angels who have fallen from Heaven, and are
now in allegiance with Satan.

They work for him, and they have assignments, ranks and positions
over regions, territories, cities and people groups.

They all operate in the unseen realm. We can't see them, but they can
see us!

Paul wants us to see that our "wrestling" is with foes that are of a
supernatural evil.

As a church, Paul is clearly laying out for us
the picture of the enemy... We are in a battle of
Great-proportions! We are in the fight of a lifetime!

We are in the face to face struggle with
the hell hounds of hell, and a lot is at stake in
Our-t!

You won't last one round if you are not dressed for the battle or attuned to what's really happening around you...

Story:

This week I was blind sided by some devastating news on my job at the University!

I didn't see it coming, and it hurt me to my core...

People I loved and trusted hurt me deeply, and I wondered what was it, that I could have done to have caused them to do this evil act against me...

I was devastated, and my world was thrown off compass...

Then I was reminded that I am in a war...But it is not with people, its with spirits that work on behalf of hell.

They don't play fair, they don't fight fair, they attempt to discredit you, shame you, dishonor you, deceive you and disrupt what you are doing in the name of Christ.

So that's why you must suit up, stand up, get up, and ready your mind because they come to steal, kill and destroy.

I was also reminded that I am preaching on Spiritual warfare in the church, and I am exposing the very things they don't want me to expose. Therefore, a target has been placed on my life.

The enemy uses whoever is available to be used to take out the one who is doing damage to the kingdom of darkness. This means that sometimes he uses people to hurt other people who are also in the church ...

But I was told to remember this week, that we are not fighting people...only sin and Satan.

The Lord said to me, son they may hurt you, they may cause you great suffering, they may make false accusations against you, they may use “micro-aggressions” against you, but they are only tools of the enemy in this fight...

Get dressed...stay dressed...so you can withstand what the enemy is trying to do...

Paul's Edification

13 *Therefore* take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil Day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery

Darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Notice:

The first thing he does is encourages them to Take up “all of the Armor”...not some of it, not a portion of it, not pieces of it...but all of it!

And, you are to do so because you will need it to stand...in other words you wont survive the blows and the throws, or the face to face combat in the arena of life...this wrestling match is to the death. You cant make it without all of it ...

Secondly, he says protect your loins with truth! This belt is to remind you of what the WORD has said...its critical because the demonic fights you with lies....

Here it is...

He is going to attack, but he is going to do it with lies first...It's the first thing he does...He sets up the lie, enforces the lie, empowers the lie, uses the lie, and then strikes with the lie....

[I know I'm right because he tried it one this week!]

Thirdly, he says put on the breastplate of righteousness! This piece of the Armor is critical, because it keeps your heart and torso covered in the front and in the back....It was a powerful piece of roman gear for the war.

It was solid brass and could withstand arrows, fiery darts and rocks and things of that nature, that would come to knock the wind out of you...or pierce your vital organs...

The breastplate is called the righteousness of the soldier...it's their evidence in battle of a life style of holiness and righteous living, serving and engagement! You need this if you're going encounter lies and be vigilant against them.

Fourthly he says...having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; having shod your feet....

Here it is...

Get the shoes of the gospel on quickly, lace them up tightly...they are so that you won't loose your grip in the wrestling match!

These roman sandals had spikes on the bottom of them...they wore them this way so that they could climb difficult places without loosing their grip.

They were also laced under the shoe, around the shoe, around the ankles and the shins so that they could not easily come loose!

These shoes were incredibly reliable...you could march hundreds of miles, you could wrestle to the death in them...they were shoes meant for battle...

Paul says that the shoes you are to wear are like this...they represent the gospel that we preach, and they will keep you along the journey...

These will prepare you to carry the gospel of peace...in a wicked world and not lose your grip.

Can I get a witness?

The gospel is reliable, trust worthy, stable, powerful, life-changing and able to withstand the test of time.

According to the text, then Paul says...

Above all taking up the shield of faith,
wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the
Fiery darts of the evil one.

To take the shield of faith was an incredible challenge but also a main fixture of the soldiers warfare!

Here it is...

The roman soldiers shield was the size
of a man... It could withstand great pressure
And enormous pounding.

Paul said, that the shield "Quenches"...
As the enemy shoots fiery-darts or
Arrows that are dipped in fire.

These arrows are aimed to kill and to cause great damage in the life of the believer.

The enemy looks for the portions of the armor where the flesh is exposed, that he may do harm to the body ...

This shield is called the shield of Faith! Its what protects, provides, prevents, the soldier from encountering the worst of blows from the evil one.

Here it is....

It is said that when the enemy would attack like a-flood the roman infantry-men would create a wall with their shields and become a barrier that was impenetrable ...

Faith is just like that! Nothing that you throw at it will ever shake its purpose ...

Faith Protects, provides, prevents and keeps the soldiers person in tact in times of dismay!

Notice:

As he draws the list to a close he adds several Pieces of hardware!

And take the helmet of salvation, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; and keep praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication

for all the saints...

- Paul uses the helmet analogy to remind us to be mindful of our salvation!
- We are Christ and he is ours!
- We are in Christ and he is in us!
- We are saved and sealed until our day of redemption, and Jesus has paid it all!
- So no matter how bad the fight gets, we protect our mind with these divine thoughts!

We are to take the sword, because it is one of the offensive weapons that keep the enemy off Of us!

The Word of god, reminds Him of his damnation status, and it reveals the authority Of God in our favor on the earth.

Story:

I told you about the evil words that came to attack me this week. For a minute I was dazed and discombobulated ...but then the words of salvation came back to me from the helmet which had protected my mind...They were the words of the Lord!

The bible really is the sword of the spirit, it really will fight off the lies of the enemy ... it really will push them back, quicken your mind, strengthen your position...

It really is a powerful weapon in this fight!

When I read the words of Paul, my trouble was put into perspective, and my perspective was realigned and put into the biblical world-view...and now I can see clearly because the lies are gone...

Paul's Ending

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, *being watchful* to this end with all *perseverance and supplication* for All the saints.

Notice:

As we close this narrative ...

Paul says, take prayer along with you.

Pray always, in the morning, at noon, at night.

Make a list, write them down, asks God to do things for you in the battle.

Pray against the Devil, pray against his plans, pray against his methods, Pray against his schemes, pray against his desires, pray against anything he may think he wants to do in your

life.

Check this out...

Paul in his final words, commands the believers to pray...it is a call to action! It's a call to engage with the greatest of all of our weapons...

With the weapon of Prayer we can operate in the unseen world... because the attack happens there, the battle must go there...

With the weapon of Prayer we can move beyond the clouds... and we can engage the Heavens and access the Arsenal of God to work our behalf ...

With the weapon of Prayer angels are at our disposal...the elements of the universe created by our great God and savior, work on our behalf...

Perhaps the greatest of all things...what prayer does is gives us access to God who moves in our hearts and minds and fights against the enemy our soul!

Story:

In June of 2013 news broadcasts across the country featured a little boy named Grayson Clamp doing something he had never done before.

The three-year-old was born without the auditory nerves that carry sound to the brain.

Attempts to restore his hearing with a cochlear implant were unsuccessful, so doctors at the University of North Carolina tried an experimental procedure to implant an auditory nerve directly into Grayson's brain.

This procedure proved successful, and millions of people enjoyed seeing the look of wonder and joy on the little boy's face when he heard his father's voice for the first time.

Today with the technology available communication is instant—but even then it is a delight to hear from a friend or family member who is far away.

Just as we respond to those familiar voices with pleasure, God delights in hearing from His children when we communicate with him.

God wants us to communicate with him in times of spiritual warfare....

Keep talking to God, when the enemy attacks....

He already knows everything about our situation, and, far better than we could devise, He knows the answer that will be best for us.

Prayer is meant in part to remind us of how dependent on God we truly are. But prayer is not just for our benefit. God enjoys hearing us pray!

God delights coming to the rescue in your prayer....

When we come to Him in faith and make our petitions before His throne of grace, His heart rejoices.

He likes hearing our voices. Let us never go long without going to Him in prayer.

Jesus Prayed through His Warfare...

In the garden, in the court hall, on the road to the cross, out on the cross and beyond the grave....

Right now he is praying sitting at the right hand of God!

Keep praying it's the best weapon of all!

Story

I told you this week that the enemy shot serious flaming arrows at your pastor,

I was under the attack in an unusual way...

but when I prayed to the one who has all power, I felt something, saw something and heard something that I needed to hear that was unexpected ...

God sent somebody to encourage...he sent several emails to inspire me...he brought his word to me in the form of this text to remind me...

And now I truly know that everything is going to be al-right!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The first century gave us the mold-breaking Apostle Paul. In the twentieth century, we witnessed the crusades and ministry of the legendary Reverend Billy Graham. The twenty first century will become known as the "Age and Era of Dr. Angulus Wilson" relating to evangelism. As a result, we pay tribute to Dr. Angulus Wilson in route to him becoming a global & household name.

As Founder & President of *Angelos Bible Institute*, he trains students for the work of the ministry, evangelism, providing Biblical understanding, and spiritual development. As Pastor, he serves as a lovingly shepherd who provides and protects his flock (*New Beginnings Church*) being one of few who executes each word of his Church's name. Dr. Wilson serves as essence of his Church's name as many have embarked on a new spiritual beginning being 'called out' from the world into the fellowship of the Church and thus defining the true meaning of "the ecclesia".

Not satisfied with mediocrity, Angulus successfully defended his Doctorate of Philosophy at *Ecclesia University of Divinity* on the subject of "Spiritual Warfare". In addition to his B.A. from *Fresno Pacific University*, M.A. from *Wheaton College*, and M.A. from *Birmingham Theological Seminary*, he shows ongoing commitment to the development of his mind as he has not only ascended to the heights of academia via earned doctoral degree but also lives daily within the community of scholasticism as Dean of Spiritual Formation at the *Fresno Pacific University* and continuing education at *Developing his International School of Evangelism: East Africa Focus*.

Dr. Wilson has published over 50 books and is able to take his sermons and sermon-series, transcribe and convert them into book form allowing them to serve as commentaries for those pastoral benefactors of his missionary ministry who are unable to afford study materials for themselves and their congregants. Therefore, Dr. Wilson has become a Pastor to Pastors.

In spite of his calling as Pastor, Dean, Director, and Author, he is a family

man, devoted husband to Sharon, his lovely wife, and an exemplary father of three sons. It takes remarkable energy, extreme devotion, and dedicated convictions to bring balance to all these titles; something that only an omnipotent Savior could provide. As a result, we present to some and introduce to others, Dr. Angulus Wilson!