



“The Hour and the Power of
Darkness”

Beaumont Community Church

Sunday, June 16, 2013

“... so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” (1 Cor 7:5)

“... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (2 Cor 2:11)

“... for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.” (2 Cor 11:14)

“... a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Cor 12:7)

“ . . . but Satan stopped us.” (1 Thess 2:18)

“Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.” (1 Tim 5:15)

“ . . . do not give the devil a foothold.” (Eph 4:27)

“ . . . that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (2 Tim 2:26)

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev 2:10)



Three Encounters between Jesus and Satan

Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 4

Matthew 16

Luke 22

Matthew 4

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Matthew 4

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4

Note also:

Mark 1:12 – “At once the Spirit sent [drove] him out into the desert.”

Luke 4:13 “When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.”

Matthew 16

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” ²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

Luke 22

¹Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ²and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

Luke 22

³¹“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Luke 22

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. ⁴⁵When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow." ⁴⁶"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Luke 22

⁴⁷While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Implications

Implication Number One:

The tempting activity of Satan is never about the particular, immediate thing with which the temptation appears to be concerned. It is never about one particular addiction, one particular sin, one particular momentary failure.

It is, rather, about Satan's overall program of attempting to turn you aside from being a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. It is about Satan's plan to ultimately turn you into an apostate—a person who has abandoned and left the faith.

Implications

Implication Number Two:

Satan never does anything by way of tempting or afflicting the people of God except by the express permission of God. Indeed, the activity of Satan in this world is directly under the control of an almighty and sovereign God. Satan would have no power at all to do anything to God's people "if it were not given to him from above."

¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. (John 19:10-11)

¹⁷“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” (John 10:17-18)

²²“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.” (Acts 2:22-23 NIV)

²⁷“Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.” (Acts 4:27-28)

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Cor 12:7-9)

⁴When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. (1 Cor 5:4-5)

²⁰Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. (1 Tim 1:20)

Syd Page, “Satan: God’s Servant”

“Satan is usually understood primarily as the archenemy of God, a supernatural being who opposes the will of God and seeks to lead people into sin. There are good grounds for this understanding in the Bible. However, there is another side to the biblical portrayal of Satan. While many texts emphasize the hostility between God and Satan, there is also abundant evidence that the biblical authors believed that Satan was subject to God’s control and was used by God to accomplish his purposes. They represent Satan, not only as God’s adversary, but also as God’s servant.”

Syd Page, “Satan: God’s Servant”

“The Bible portrays Satan as an implacable enemy of God, whose designs on humanity are malicious; however, it does not represent Satan as God’s equal or as one who acts independently of divine control. In the prologue of Job, the oldest text that speaks of a celestial Satan figure, he is clearly pictured as one who is subordinate to God and who operates only within the parameters that God sets for him.”

Syd Page, “Satan: God’s Servant”

“Satan may be portrayed as acting with the permission of God or as an unwitting instrument of God, but in either case, he fulfills the will of God in what he does. One must, therefore, be careful to avoid exaggerating the power of Satan and setting up a dichotomy between God and Satan that would suggest a particular action must be attributed to either one or the other. These alternatives are not mutually exclusive. Satan is God’s adversary, but whatever he does falls under the overarching sovereignty of God.”

Implications

Implication Number Three:

⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” (Rev 12:9-11)

Implications

Implication Number Three:

We do not defeat Satan by spiritual mapping, by identifying and naming the demons, by repeating some mantra, by some kind of religious abracadabra or Christian hocus-pocus.

We defeat Satan:

- By the blood of the Lamb
- By the Word of God
- By our testimony and our good confession
- By our complete and utter devotion to Jesus Christ