The Wiles of the Devil

"Consider Job!"

Job 1-2
Lesson 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 19, 2011
A study of Satan – Why bother?

- Life on earth is a spiritual conflict: Ephesians 6:11-12
- Satan is seeking to destroy us: 1 Peter 5:8
- Satan desires to destroy our faith in Christ
  - Acts 13:8, 10
- He deceives – we must know his devices
The Wiles of the Devil

- Lucifer cast out (Isa. 14:12-21; Eze. 28:11-19)
  - A created holy cherub
  - Aspired to be greater than God – Pride

- The Serpent in Paradise (Gen. 3)
  - Crafty presentation
  - Undermine trust in the Word of God – cast doubt or deny
  - Encourage independent assessment of truth
Lesson 3 – “Consider Job!”

- An attempt to get Job to curse God
- An indirect approach through circumstances
- A temptation of the heart/mind
The Book of Job

- Prologue (1-2) – The suffering of Job
- Point and Counterpoint (Job 3-26)
  - Accusation: Job is suffering because of sin
- Job’s final discourse (Job 27-31)
- Elihu weighs in (Job 32-37)
- God questions and Job responds (Job 38-42:6)
  - God’s wisdom (Job 38-39) – Job repents (Job 40:1-5)
  - God’s power (Job 40-41) – Job repents (Joab 42:1-6)
- Epilogue (Job 42:7-17) – blessing restored
Job’s character and life

- Blameless/perfect – no observable sinful acts
- Upright – a straight pathway
- Feared God – respect for God and His Word
- Turned from evil – pursuit of righteousness
- Great wealth
- Job’s spiritual concern for his children
God’s assessment of Job

- Job 1:8 and 2:3
- Blameless and upright
- Fears God and turns away from evil
- None like him on the earth
Satan’s first attack

- In heaven – Satan presented himself before the LORD
- Satan under the dominion of God.
- On earth – going about, seeking whom he may destroy
Satan’s initial accusation

- Job came to God for temporal blessings (1:10-11)
- The provision of material gain produced false faith
- Job did not love God with his whole heart and soul and mind (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- Job loved the world (James 4:4-5)
God’s permission or action?

► All that Job had was put into Satan’s hand, but not his life

► This is ultimately an act of God
  • Job 1:11 – Satan invited God to stretch out His hand against Job
  • Job 2:3 – “you incited Me against Job”
  • Job 2:5 – Satan invited God to strike Job’s body

► It determines the significance of what is happening
The attack on Job’s prosperity

- Sabeans – donkeys, oxen, servants (1:13-15)
- Fire from heaven – sheep, servants (1:16)
- Chaldeans – camels, servants (1:17)
- Great wind – sons and daughters (1:18-19)
Job’s response

- Tore his robe and shaved his head
- Fell down and worshiped God
- The duty to bless the LORD
  - Romans 1:21 – first duty is to honor God and give thanks
  - Jeremiah 18:1-6 – the right of the Potter
  - Horatio Spafford – “It is well with my soul”
Prosperity – Satan’s opening

- The LORD’S pleasure dominates life, not our own
- Deut. 8:11-14 – the distraction of prosperity
- Phil. 2:6 – the example of Jesus Christ
- Job did not sin or charge God
- Faith is to submit to God and trust in God
Satan’s second accusation

- Skin for skin
- All that a man has, he will give for his own life
- Satan: Job’s self-love was more than love for God
- The threat of loss of life will reveal the true Job
God’s permission (and action)

- His health can be affected but not his life
- A severe attack by Satan – loathsome sores

Job’s wife: “Curse God and die!”
Job’s response

- Foolish advice to curse God
- God’s right to send good or evil
- Job did not sin with his lips
The twofold purpose of suffering

- Satan’s objective
  - Curse God
  - Condemn the ways of God
  - Isaiah 5:20-21 – Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.
  - Isaiah 59:1-3 – sins separated you from God; lips have spoken lies
The twofold purpose of suffering

God’s objective

• A good work – Phil. 1:6
• Save to the uttermost – Hebrews 7:25
• Psalm 103:10-14 – not deal with us according to our sins
• Proverbs 3:11-12 – discipline – training
• Genesis 50:19-20 – God’s good intent in bad events
• Romans 8:28-29 – see also 8:18 and 8:35-39
• Romans 11:33-36 – the inscrutable mind of the LORD
The unshakable faith of Job

- Job knew God was afflicting him

- Job did not understand the reason for the suffering
  - Job 3

- Job knew it was not for sin
  - Job 31

- Job expected blessing from God
  - Job 29

- Job had firm faith in the final outcome
  - Job 19:25-27; 23:10

- Job’s faith rested on the Word of God
  - Job 23:11-14
The wiles of the devil

- Undermine your faith in God
- Direct assault against God’s spoken/written Word
- Temptation comes by way of life circumstances
- Reject Word of God
- Condemn God for His work
Submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7-8)
Endure as a means of blessing (James 5:10-11)
Note the outcome of the LORD’S dealings – compassion and mercy (James 5:11)
The lesson from Job – “Trust in the LORD”
Do not be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3)