

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
 - Luke 22:31
- ▶ 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 (Job 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 1:21; 2:10; 10:2-3; 12:9, 15; 17:6; 19:7-21; 30:19-23
- ▶ 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

The wisdom of God

- ▶ 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)