

The Wiles of the Devil

Satan in the Early Church

Acts 5:1-11; 16:16-34; 19:11-20

Lesson 9

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

July 31, 2011

Purpose of our study of the devil

- ▶ Learn the wiles of the devil – 1 Peter 5:8
- ▶ Learn the tools for resisting the devil – James 4:7

The Wiles of the Devil

1. Lucifer cast out (Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:11-19)
 - a. Desire to be above God
 - b. Corrupted wisdom
2. Serpent in Paradise (Genesis 3)
 - a. Crafty – beautiful
 - b. Liar
3. Consider Job! (Job 1-2)
 - a. Attack the person and property of Job
 - b. Cause Job to curse God

The Wiles of the Devil

4. The temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)
 - a. Do not trust God
 - b. Tempt/test God
 - c. Love the world more than God – not worship God
5. The enemy and the Kingdom (Matt. 13:1-30; 36-43)
 - a. Remove Word
 - b. Counterfeit believers
6. Demons cast out (Luke 8:26-39)
 - a. Oppression of men
 - b. Power of Christ

The Wiles of the Devil

7. Two Kingdoms (Luke 11:14-26)
 - a. Two kingdoms at war
 - b. No peace for the wicked
8. The father of lies (John 8:31- 59)
 - a. Liar
 - b. Murderer
9. Satan in the early Church
Acts 5:1-11; 16:16-34; 19:11-20

Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11

- ▶ Example of Barnabas (4:36-37)
- ▶ Ananias and Sapphira
 - Key word: nosphizomai (Gr) – to pilfer, to embezzle
 - Titus 2:10
 - Joshua 7:1 (Septuagint – Greek Old Testament)
- ▶ Satan filled his heart to lie
 - Lie to the Holy Spirit (5:3)
 - Lie to God (5:4)
 - Test the Spirit (5:9)
- ▶ Sudden death to both husband and wife.

What was the role of Satan?

- ▶ Satan filled their hearts
- ▶ Luke 11:21 – strong man armed
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8 – roaring lion
- ▶ John 13:2 – put in Judas' heart
- ▶ John 13:27 – Satan entered Judas

The heart of the matter

- ▶ Satan lifted up his heart against God (Isaiah 14)
- ▶ Matthew 15:17-20 – heart defiles
- ▶ Jeremiah 17:9 – deceitful, wicked heart
- ▶ James 1:14 – enticed by our own lust
- ▶ Matthew 5:8 – blessed are the pure in heart . . .

The wiles of the devil

- ▶ 2 Corinthians. 4:4 – blinds minds of unbelievers
- ▶ Ephesians 2:2 – works in the children of disobedience
- ▶ 2 Cor. 11:14 – devil turns himself into an angel of light

Were Ananias and Sapphira true believers?

- ▶ Peter under the influence of Satan
 - Get behind me, Satan (Matthew 16:23)
 - Satan desires to sift you (Luke 22:31 and 22:54-62)
- ▶ Communion warning (1 Cor. 11:28-34)

Why the severity of the penalty?

- ▶ Lying to God is a serious matter (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
- ▶ The proper question: Why not always severe wrath?
- ▶ Mercy and grace of God exalted in the face of sin

The outcome of Satan's attack

- ▶ Great price paid by Ananias and Sapphira
- ▶ Great fear on the church (Proverbs 9:10)
- ▶ Great blessing in the church (5:14)
- ▶ A warning: Proverbs 4: 23 “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”

The evil spirit cast out (16:16-34)

- ▶ Slave girl with spirit of Python
- ▶ “These men are servants of the Most High God who proclaim the way of salvation.”
- ▶ Paul, annoyed after several days, cast out the demon
- ▶ Owners falsely accused Paul and Silas
- ▶ Paul and Silas were beaten and cast into prison
- ▶ Great deliverance by earthquake
- ▶ Salvation of the jailer and his house
- ▶ An apology from the magistrates

What was the role of Satan?

- ▶ A harmless announcement?
- ▶ Essential background – Satan is the father of lies
- ▶ “Most High God” – common term for god, esp. Zeus.
- ▶ “Way of salvation” – many saviors in Greek/Roman world, including the emperor
- ▶ Jesus’ example – Mark 1:24-25, 34; Luke 4:34-35

The slave owners react

- ▶ The evidence of the work of Satan in their hearts
- ▶ Love for the world, more than love for God – riches
- ▶ Matthew 6:24 – you cannot serve 2 masters – God and money
- ▶ They lied to have Paul and Silas killed
- ▶ Satanic influence – blinded minds

Satan's attack on Paul and Silas?

- ▶ Suffering and imprisonment
- ▶ Satanic temptation – “curse God”

The outcome of Satan's attack

- ▶ Paul and Silas sang praises to God
- ▶ The power of God in the earthquake
- ▶ Salvation for the jailer
- ▶ The danger of syncretism

Extraordinary miracles (19:11-20)

- ▶ Unusual miracles – touching Paul's clothing
- ▶ Jewish exorcists attempt to copy
 - Sceva – Jewish high priest – “pretender”
 - Seven Jewish sons of Sceva were exorcists – fake
- ▶ Exorcists are beaten and driven away naked
- ▶ Fear and honor for Christ
- ▶ Believers repented of the magic practices
- ▶ Magic books burned
- ▶ Word of the Lord increased mightily

Miracles in a world of magic arts

- ▶ Ephesus, a city given over to magic
- ▶ Precedents by Jesus and Peter
 - Jesus: Mark 5:27-34; 6:56
 - Peter: Acts 5:15
- ▶ Evil spirits and sicknesses
- ▶ Unusual display of Divine power in a city that was under the influence of Satan

What was the role of Satan?

- ▶ On the residents – bondage and suffering
- ▶ On the exorcists – physical abuse; humiliation
- ▶ On the believers – continued magical practices

Why were the exorcists unsuccessful?

- ▶ No magic in Christianity
- ▶ Miracle is an act of God's sovereign power
- ▶ Psalm 50:16f - the wicked may not use His Name.

The outcome Satan's attack

- ▶ The name of Jesus was extolled
- ▶ Power of Jesus distinguished from Satanic power
- ▶ Sanctification of believers

A spiritual warfare

- ▶ “The business of the Bible is to assert the reality of the unseen.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- ▶ Ephesians 6:12 – wrestle not against flesh and blood
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:18 – eternal things are unseen

Satan in the Early Church

- ▶ Guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23)
- ▶ No compromise with evil (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- ▶ Give no opportunity to the devil (Ephesians 4:27)