

No Trespassing II – Our Adversary

Illustration: Mark Bubeck tells a story about a woman he led to Christ. She had some self-defeating sin in her life and nightmares and fears, and overnight they vanished as the joy of Christ filled her life. For one reason or another, she was not very diligent about her growth in Christ...being sporadic in her church attendance and neglectful about dealing with habits and sin in her life. She drifted away and about a year later returned to the pastor for counseling. “It didn’t last, Pastor. It was wonderful but now my problems are worse than when I received Christ. My nightmares are worse than ever and I’m afraid all of the time. I guess it just doesn’t work for me.”

She was a victim of spiritual enemies. She never learned how to grow in such a way as to REMAIN victorious and to RECOGNIZE the enemy whose purpose is to steal, kill and destroy.

1. The nature of our enemy & why we need to know it.

- a. Last week I shared what Satan’s greatest lie was...”that he doesn’t exist.” He gets lots of folks to believe this lie.
- b. To reject the reality or existence of Satan is to reject the Bible as God’s inspired and infallible revelation to man.
 - i. As God’s Word, the Bible is comprehensive in its teaching about the reality of Satan or the devil.
 - ii. His existence is taught from Genesis to Revelation.
 - iii. Seven Old Testament books teach his existence (Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah) and every New Testament writer refers to his reality and activity as a personal being.
 - iv. More importantly, Christ also affirmed the fact of Satan and his activity as a personal being.
 - v. In twenty-five of the twenty-nine passages in the Gospels which speak of Satan, our Lord Jesus is speaking.
- c. We study our enemy’s tactics in the same way that the 2 superbowl teams studied films of their opponents, knowing their strengths and weaknesses.
 - i. The one who was best prepared won!
 - ii. If we desire to experience victory over our opponent we must study our enemy.
- d. Advanced Infantry Training established in Vietnam as a result of a study by advisors who noted that the majority of the casualties were suffered by people in country less than 2 months.
 - i. If you lived 2 months, you probably would make it.
 - ii. Why were they getting killed? B/c they didn’t know the TACTICS of the enemy.
 - iii. Boot camp taught you how to obey, how to trust your buddies, and how to fight. But it didn’t teach you about your enemy.
 - iv. So AIT was established to teach soldiers to RECOGNIZE the booby traps, the punji traps, the land mines, the spider holes and caves, as well as how to walk in the jungle (in the footprints of the man in front of you).
 1. You learned about your enemy’s tactics so that you wouldn’t become his victim and a casualty!
- e. Now there are some who would say, “well if you aren’t under attack, don’t stir up a hornets nest. Leave well enough alone.”
 - i. That is like saying, Satan is so mean and ferocious that we better not challenge him or it will make our lives uncomfortable!
 - ii. That is tantamount to saying, “lets not attack the terrorists because we might make them mad and they will strike us back.”
 1. Military doctrine says you go after the enemy in their territory, not yours.

2. Why would you choose a position of weakness? Because it feels safe? That is a coward's way of life!

f. *One caution:* We must not pay so much attention to our enemy that we cease to pay attention and focus upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Our eyes must be upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He is where our help comes from.

2. Satan – who is he?

a. He is the most powerful angel or being in creation after God. (Ez.28)

i. He was kicked out of heaven along with 1/3 of the angels after rebelling against God by choosing to usurp God's authority.

b. We also know that he has an entire "organization" (principalities, powers, rulers, and spiritual wickedness in high places) (Eph 6:11-12).

c. We should understand that the devil and his demons are never presented in the Bible as independent forces in opposition to God such as presented in Eastern dualism – ie. Buddhism, Ying/yang;

i. Satan and his followers are beings created by God who fell from their original place of glory

ii. The Bible tells us that Satan was highly privileged, the very epitome of God's creation, who had an unparalleled position in the universe.

iii. Ezekiel 28:11-19

1. *Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you*

2. **Satan had unparalleled wisdom and beauty** (v. 12). (Seal of perfection, perfect in beauty)

3. **Satan had unparalleled habitation** (v. 13). (Eden)

4. **Satan had unparalleled clothing** (v. 13). (The dazzling description of his dress or robe indicates the glory given to him.)

5. **Satan had an unparalleled function** (v. 14 – "The Cherub who covers").

a. He belonged to the order of angelic creature designated cherubim.

b. They are associated with guarding the holiness of God (Gen. 3:24) and the actual presence of God.

6. **Satan had unparalleled perfection** (Ezek. 28:15).

a. He was perfect.

b. We are told in v 13 that he was a created being and as such he must someday answer to his Creator.

7. In every way Satan was the supreme act of God's creation until "*unrighteousness was found in him.*"

2. Satan's fall

a. Is 14:12-15 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the*

clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit

- b. Five "I will" statements which are evidence of the PRIDE that overtook him.
 - i. In each of these "I wills" Satan pits his will against the will of God.
 - ii. He substitutes his will for God's will and these five statements reveal Satan's program.
 1. **I will ascend to heaven.**
 - a. There are three different spheres of heaven: (1) the atmospheric heaven around the earth, (2) the stellar heavens, and (3) heaven of heavens, which represents God's abode, God's throne or the seat of God's sovereign authority, the place of God's rule.
 - b. As the "anointed cherub" and the guardian of God's holiness, Satan had access to this third heaven, so his desire here was to occupy heaven as one who was equal with God.
 - c. The creature wanted to expel the Creator and the servant wanted to become the served.
 2. **I will raise my throne above the stars of God.**
 - a. Satan desired to exalt himself to rule over the angelic kingdom as God.
 3. **I will sit on the mount of the assembly in the recesses of the north.**
 - a. This third "I will" of Satan expresses his determination to rule over the affairs of the entire created universe.
 4. **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.**
 - a. According to Exodus 16:10 and Revelation 19:1, clouds are often associated with God's glory and presence.
 - b. This "I will" expressed Satan's desire to usurp the glory that belonged to God.
 - c. But the glory that belonged to Lucifer was not inherently his; it was a reflected glory. God, who is the author of glory,
 5. **I will make myself like the Most High.**
 - a. Note the contradiction in Satan's own thinking here.
 - b. To become like God was first of all to admit that he was not God.
 - c. He was only a created being, one created by the Creator.
 - d. In what way then could a creature be like the Creator?
 - i. He was the wisest of God's beings but he was not omniscient; he did not know all things.
 - ii. He was the most powerful of all of God's created being, but he was not omnipotent.
 - iii. He could go from one end of the created universe to another, but he was not omnipresent.
 - iv. In what way could he be like the most High? There was only one way.
 - v. That was to be totally and completely independent of any authority outside of himself.
 - vi. **Satan could be like God only in being responsible to no one but himself.**
 - iii. And what was the first temptation given to man?
 1. To get man to eat of the tree of good and evil so that man, in an act of independence, might be like God.
 2. Or in essence, be a god unto himself.
 3. This is Satan's program...to reproduce this mentality today in mankind.
 4. And unfortunately, he finds willing targets.

3. Nature of Satan

- a. As a fallen angel, all that is true of angels in general is true of Satan and his fallen angels (demons).
- b. **He is a Creature:** like all angels, Satan is a creature, created by Christ, the Creator of all things (cf. John 1:1 with Psa. 148:1-5; Col. 1:16; Ezek. 28:13).
- c. **He is a Spirit Being:** We are told that *“we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places”* (Eph. 6:12)
- d. **He Has Limitations:**
 - i. Though extremely powerful, Satan is neither omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent.
 - ii. He cannot be everywhere at once.
 - iii. However, as the chief of his demons forces, he is a ruler of a vast host of demons who are so numerous as to make Satan’s power and presence seem to be everywhere at once (cf. Mark 5:9).
 - iv. It is comforting to know that Satan is limited.
 1. The promise of Scripture is that *“greater is He who is in us, than he who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4).
 2. Satan could do nothing against Job that God did not expressly allow.
- e. **He is stronger than any human being.**
 - i. When you read through the gospels, you will see that Satan had pretty much free reign on earth, disrupting and oppressing lives without any opposition until Jesus came.
- f. **He is like a Roaring Lion**
 - i. (1 Peter 5:8-9) *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”*
 - ii. The roar of a lion on the plains of Africa can be an awe-inspiring event. During one of the early Survivor seasons, they had the campers in Africa, where real live lions lived. At night they could hear the roar of these creatures which no doubt made these survivors feel a little uneasy.
 1. Tactics of a lion:
 - a. A lion will get on one side of prey and roar, producing FEAR in the prey and causing them to RUN towards the younger lions waiting in ambush.
 - b. Satan roars his lies and threats in order to make us afraid.
 - c. The roar of a lion has at times even produced the paralysis of fear in its victims and makes them easy prey.
 - d. The good news is that, although the Devil is described “like” a “roaring lion,” in reality he has no actual authority over believers.
 - e. He is not really a lion, but roars “like” a lion would to bluff his victims into fear and intimidation.
 - f. Satan is a liar and deceiver and uses deception as his weapon to gain advantage over those who are ignorant of the limitations of his power.
 2. Remember that Fear is the opposite of faith
 - a. Faith is looking to God.
 - b. Fear is looking to our circumstances.
- g. **He is a Murderer, Liar & Thief** –
 - i. Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are like the devil.
 1. Jn 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies*

- ii. Then he describes Satan's agenda in John 10:10 "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*"
- iii. Lying : He is a Perverter and Distorter
 - 1. What does it mean to pervert?
 - a. It means to change something from its original and intended use and purpose, to distort or twist from its true meaning and use.
 - b. Thus, anything that God may give to man for his protection, blessing, and happiness, Satan seek to pervert and twist in some say whether it is grace, God's plan of salvation, sex and marriage, the home, government, food, worship, Bible study; you name it, and he can find a way to distort it.
 - c. This is one reason it is so important for us to know and properly use God's Word because it is the means by which we can sort out Satan's deceptions and perversions.
- h. **Satan is An Imitator**
 - i. This points out the method by which he seeks to deceive us.
 - ii. Satan, remember, wanted to be like God and one of his purposes is to make men as much like God as he can, but always without God.
 - iii. So, he will copy as much of God and His plan as he can, but he will always either distort, pervert, substitute or leave out those key ingredients of truth that are vital to the plan of salvation and sanctification through Christ.
 - iv. Many of the epistles are written, at least in part, as arguments against Satan's devices.
 - v. Note some illustrations of Satan's imitation (Ex. 7:8-13, 20-23; 8:4-7, 16-19; Matt. 7:15-23; Rev. 13:1-18; 2 Cor. 11:3-15; Col. 2).
- i. **He is the "god of this world"** –
 - i. In six separate passages in the NT, Satan is revealed to be the ruler or god of this present age and the world system.
 - ii. 2 Cor 4:3-4 *3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - iii. JOHN 12:31 *"Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; 32 and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."* (RSV)
 - iv. JOHN 16:11 *"Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."* (RSV)
 - v. John 14:30 *I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world (Greek, kosmos) is coming, and he has nothing in Me.*
 - vi. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *in whose case the god of this world (aiwn, "age") has blinded the minds of the unbelieving*
 - vii. Ephesians 2:2 *in which you formerly walked according to the course (aiwn) of this world (kosmos), according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*
- j. **Satan An Adversary** (or Accuser)
 - i. (Zech 3:1) *"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him"*.(also 1 Pe 5:8)
 - ii. Rev. 12:10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night*
 - iii. He is "against" us, like a bad lawyer who files harassing and spurious lawsuits against us.
 - iv. He asks us "Did God really say?" (in other words, God lied to you).
 - v. He accuses us to our face and he will accuse us before God.
 - 1. He tempts us so as to bring us under guilt and condemnation.
 - 2. He reminds us of our sins (Rev. 12:10).

- a. He accuses us before God when we sin, thinking he can cause us to lose our Father's love.
 - b. But Christ, our Advocate, takes our case and reminds us and the Father that He paid for all our sins when He died on the cross (1 John 2:1-2).
 - 3. Satan opposes the believer by bringing pressure on him which he may not be able to bear.
 - a. There are two examples of this in the New Testament. One concerned the man disciplined in 1 Corinthians 5. Apparently the discipline had had its desired effect, and he had confessed his sin of incest. Now the church should have received him back into fellowship. Seemingly, some wanted to do this and some did not. So Paul urged them to do so, not only to heal any division that might develop but also lest the brother involved be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. He needed to know the forgiveness of his brothers and sisters (2 Cor. 2:5-11). Not to restore him would give Satan an advantage.
 - b. The second example concerns women who are widowed at a young age (1 Tim. 5:14-15). Paul urged them to marry again and bear children and lead useful lives. Some, idle and gossiping, were following Satan.
- k. **He is the Afflicter and Oppressor of Mankind:**
 - i. When demons bring sickness and ailments upon people, we find that Satan is often at the source:
 - 1. LUKE 13:11 *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. . . . 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?"* (NKJV)
 - 2. ACTS 10:38 *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."* (NKJV)
 - ii. Key words: **Oppressed and bound.**
 - 1. This week I had a powerful revelation concerning my life and the meaning of these two words. While I was reviewing some family movies and putting them on my computer, I saw images of myself from 10 to 15 years ago. As I looked into the image of my eyes, I saw the bondage and the oppression that I was in (even as a believer) and the strongholds that were gripping my life. I could see the lies I believed about myself and about life. And gratitude poured over me toward God for His faithfulness in delivering me from some very oppressive and terrible strongholds.
 - 2. Then as I read the headlines of some horrific crimes, I saw myself...not in what I was but in what I could have become had God not delivered me.
 - 3. And then for a split second, I saw a glimpse of what Jesus saw when he saw people who were bound up and oppressed.
 - 4. He saw people in bondage to the lies of the Satan and under his power and control.
 - 5. He felt compassion for them and freed them.
 - 6. He didn't feel anger toward them. He didn't condemn them. He knew their helplessness. His sole purpose toward them was to save them from captivity.

7. Now I hope that as I see others struggling with life that I see captives instead of difficult people. I hope I can see their bondage instead of their offenses toward me. And I pray that I will desire to see them set free.

1. An angel of light

- i. (2 Cor 11:14) 14 *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*
- ii. Job's friend, Eliphaz, testified to an experience with the spiritual realm, most likely a demon spirit, when he said in Job 4:15, "*then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up.*"
- iii. The supernatural presence of any powerful spirit-being can and often does produce some unusual body and soul sensations in us.
 1. Those who have attended a séance, a druid service, or a wicca service will tell you as much.
 2. Spiritual beings are powerful and produce very strong sensations in our bodies, minds and emotions.
 3. They counterfeit the work and feelings of the Spirit of God, by giving us feelings of euphoria.
 4. This is why Christians are reminded not to rely upon feeling to validate what God is doing in our lives.
 - a. If I waited until I got a certain "feeling" before I was convinced that God had provided His anointing, I probably would only preach 2 or 3 times a year.
 - b. If it was necessary to "feel something" every time you worshipped, you would probably have to admit that you haven't worshipped very often.
- ii. **Our encounter with God is an OBJECTIVE FACT not a SUBJECTIVE FEELING.**
- iii. Feelings and Idolatry:
 1. When we seek the subjective feeling then we are no longer seeking God but the *experience*. In other words, the experience has taken the place of God.
 2. God may give you wonderful feelings when you are worshipping Him.
 3. But are you worshipping Him to get a "good feeling" or are you worshipping Him because that is your proper place as a created being before the majestic creator and savior of the world?

3. The armor of the enemy

- a. Luke 11:21-22 21 "*When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. 22 "But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder"*
 - i. The greek word for armor is actually "the sum of his weapons."
 - ii. What is the weapon of our adversary? It is one thing. It is a lie.
 1. "*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie*" (II Thessalonians 2:8-11).
- b. Even a white lie or exaggeration does not glorify God. God is exalted by the truth and He alone tells the truth. If an organization stretches the truth, then it doesn't matter what good they do, they are exalting themselves instead of God. (Ie. Amway).

4. Victory!

- a. When Jesus gave his life on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world, He also redeemed us from Satan's power and dominion over us. "*Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*" (Col. 2:15).
 - i. "...*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil*" (1 John 3:8).
 - ii. Praise God! **Satan is a defeated enemy!**
 - iii. Satan's legal authority was neutralized by the finished work of Christ on the cross.
- b. So if Satan is already defeated, why then is he still able to cause trouble?
 - i. Because, even though Christ broke Satan's legal power, the Lord has left it up to us to "enforce" the Devil's defeated condition.
 - ii. It's our responsibility to use the authority that Christ has given us to put Satan in his place
 - iii. It is up to us to ENFORCE the no trespassing signs!
 1. Home Invasions – When I was in Texas, the folks from the Vietnamese community were victims of a phenomenon called "home invasions." These simple and gentle people had been raised in a culture that did not trust the police (crooked in their home country) and that didn't trust banks. So they kept their hard earned money in their homes. Exploiting this situation were Vietnamese gangs, who would break in and terrorize the family and steal all they had, knowing that they would never be reported or caught!
 2. The answer for the Vietnamese victims is simply. The invaders have no legal right to enter their homes or yours. The only way to remove them is to call upon one with the authority and power to remove him. One who is "bigger" than him. So we call the police, who have the badge (authority) and the power (gun) to force him to leave.
 3. Satan is that kind of foe. But he tends to be subtle. Once we have opened the door (whether by weakness, sin, carelessness or neglect) he insists on remaining as long as he wants. In fact, when we become worn down by his presence and by the guilt of our failures, we sometimes conclude that maybe we simply cannot ever get our house back.
 - iv. Where this is leading is **It is our job as Christians to CHALLENGE Satan's intrusions into our lives.**
 1. We must challenge trespassers like we learned last week.
 2. We cannot simply allow them to take over our property, to build on our land or to steal from us.
 3. Satan will "steal, kill and destroy" all that he can.
- c. Our Authority:
 - i. "Behold, *I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you*" (Luke 10:19).
 - ii. The Devil hates the name of Jesus and detests an atmosphere of praise and worship which exalts the name of Jesus.
 - iii. Christ said, "*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them*" (Matt. 18:20).
 1. Be assured, the presence of Christ will expel the presence of Satan. Lifting up Jesus in praise will send the Devil running!
 2. Any area of your life which is not submitted to God is considered open territory to the Devil, and he has the right to bring his expanding influence to those areas.
 3. This is why the scripture says, "...*submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7).

4. The best way to actually resist Satan is to submit yourself fully to God.
 - d. Rejoice! *He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world*" (1 John 4:4).

Will you submit yourself fully to God? Will you recognize that you may be deceived in areas of your life. Will you admit that you are trying to live a life independent from God? Will you seek help? Let me know if you would like prayer, for you or a family member who might be bound up and imprisoned. Jennifer and I will be available...if you want to pray only with me or her, or with both of us, let us know.

- i. Truth as a antidote to lies: II TIMOTHY 2:24 *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.* (NKJV)
 1. We must understand that Satan never stands in the truth
 2. He may use the truth, but only to eventually propagate a lie.
 3. It is always a subterfuge for promoting his deceptions. (2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:13; 2 Thess. 2:10).