

War V: A Roaring Lion's Strategy over Man

Genesis 3:5-13

Announce:

- o Fall Launch at The Road August 22nd
- o Church Camp out next weekend but we will have worship services here
- o Women, Shine, study of Titus, beginning after the *Wholeheart Advance* for men, on Thursday September 17th
- o Men, *The Wholeheart Advance* at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center, Sept 10-13th. Information in the lobby and online

3 Positions of Spiritual Warfare:

1. Overly Sensitive to Spiritual Warfare: "Demon behind every Bush" mentality

- o Over emphasis and pre-occupation with satan. Demons in your rock music. Demons are behind every bush. Demons are everywhere.
- o Demons ruling over everything and we have to find them and root them out...breaking the bondage of this, etc. We are giving him more credit than the Bible does
- o Spiritual Mapping: find the demons over a city and root them out, take them on! I don't see this map in the Bible

- Jude 9
- 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" NKJV
- don't rail against the devil, we must be careful, but we are sealed in Christ. But we are naturally scared of these things: fear of darkness...walking through a cemetery at night

2. Complete Neglect: "Demons don't exist"

- Don't talk to me about that! "Ah come on...that's not real" That is an error. The Bible is full of the warfare
- This is where most of the Church is at—the Church is ignorant of his schemes or just out and out denies their existence

3. The 3rd position is our position, the Biblical Position: "Study and Stand"

- **Paul to the Ephesians 6:10**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- Be like Bereans and see if what I am saying is true. "Stand...put on the full armor...stand...stand...stand" Stand against. We have the privilege to stand\

- Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. NKJV

- It is crucial that we know and understand our enemy!

1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

- To the extent we know our need will be the extent that we will desire to get trained and get equipped with the power we need!
- Ex. Reality check with Yasu-I did not know what I was doing, but we won
- Began to really study and learn...I wanted all the tools
- Satan and demons will not give up without a fight! We must learn the nature, purposes, and battle plan of the enemy!

Last week we looked at the purpose of Man and Woman, found in Gen 1 and 2:

- Given the very breath of God, God breathed into him His breath, His image
- "to be fruitful and multiply" and to have dominion on the earth.
- To take back the earth from Satan and his angels The image of God was given to man to walk in power and authority
- To be a Co-Regent with God over the earth

- Satan, knew that the only way to take out this “God Image” Warrior of God was a frontal attack on the goodness and love of God at the heart level, and confidence in the promises and Word of God at the mental level

Satan’s strategy as a Roaring Lion seeking someone to devour:

- 1. Cause man to Question God’s Goodness and Love**
- 2. Cause man to Question God’s Word and Promises**
- 3. Cause man to Want Independence from God—to be like God himself**

Gen 3:5

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”¹

- Man’s sin was of the same nature as Satan’s—direct rebellion against God and God’s authority over us!
- Satan’s Declaration of Independence is Man’s Declaration of Independence

Isa 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.²

- What Satan didn’t bargain for was the independence of Man. Satan wanting to win man over to his allegiance soon finds that man does what he wants to do

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ge 3:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Is 53:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Satan, wanting to turn man in his hatred for God, will find that man hates Satan just as much as he hates God because man wants to be God!
- Where there had been One will, then two wills, now today there are 7 billion wills—all running around wanting to be gods
- The English Poet William Ernest Henley captures Adam's independence from God, in the famous poem *Invictus*

*Out of the Night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be,
For my unconquerable soul.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.*

- What a poetic fool! Even as Adam was a rebellious fool. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God!" (Ps 14:1)
- The only peace that can be found is in Christ. There is only one will in the universe that will provide peace, order, and righteousness and that is the will of God. The fruit of the kingdom of God is "righteousness, peace, and joy"

Vs. 6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

- The enticement to rebellion always begins with the window into our soul—the eyes. The temptation begins with questioning God and the sin is complete

with the temptation of the eyes

- We think with our eyes! As our eyes view what they are drawn into, we think with our eyes
- And Eve thinks with her eyes—desirable to make one wiser than God
- Ex. you can see into one's soul through looking into one's eyes...
- Satan and demon use our pride to penetrate our souls, our hearts through enticing us through the eyes

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- She pulls Adam in on the scheme
- Ex. No one likes to smoke pot alone...shoot up alone...cheat on a test alone...gossip alone! You always have to tell someone or do it with someone right? Almost all rebellion involves another and so she pulls Adam in
- But God puts the responsibility on the man, on Adam...
- **Bible says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."**

Vs. 7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

- The first consequence of sin. Shame. Shame was

birthed in the sinful heart of man

- Rejection and shame have entered the world
- Shame through our sexuality
- Ex. They didn't sew fig leaves to put over their hairdo, or their knee caps, or their biceps, no, they place them over their sexual organs
- Because our identity is wrapped up in our sexuality. Our sexuality defines us
- Ex. What the media doesn't want you to know for example is that over 60% of the people who have gender change commit suicide
- A shame born out of a fear of being seen for who we really are
- Shame defined as, "If you really knew me, you would reject me"
- Intimacy is broken! Don't miss this. Intimacy is always broken by shame
- Shame is the fear of disconnection. Adam and Eve no longer feel loved, no longer belong, no longer have a home
- They run from their most intimate friend, the garden—the only place they have ever known and belonged. Shame brings disconnection
- Satan knew that the only way to begin taking out man was to drive a wedge between their intimacy and connection with God!

- Nothing has changed!
- Religion can bring shame—religion can cause shame in one's life through creating a God of fear instead of love and judgment instead of grace!
- Ex. Demons love shame in our lives whether it's from our own failures, or sexual abuse, or being belittled, shame causes us to run from love, run from relationships
- Ex. Shame breaks off authenticity and vulnerability and we do the opposite, we run from real loving relationships. More on this later.

Vs. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- Shame breeds fear. We fear God. We fear love. We fear openness of heart and mind
- We fear God, but not the fear of God that leads to repentance and transformation (for there are two kinds of fear) but the fear that leads to death, fear that leads to enslavement. One fear, the fear of God in this sense of holy worship and reverence for God leads to life. But this is the fear that leads to death, to brokenness, to self-hatred!

- Psychiatry and Psychology and counselors have been trying to figure out phobia's and fears for hundreds of years
- These fears and shame lead to strongholds over our lives, over our hearts and demons come in and infiltrate!
- Ex. Many of us tonight are full of fear—fear of the future, fear about our jobs, fear over our marriages, fear over our ability to perform
- Ex. The greatest fear over Men is the fear that we don't have what it takes! That we will never be a Man, a real Man. We fear letting our parents down, our wives down, our dreams down
- Fear grips our hearts and we don't know how to be set free from fear

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."³

- Shame, Fear, and now Blame! Adam blames Eve, Eve blames the Serpent!
- Blame is the result of shame and fear! We blame because if we don't we will be exposed—which is shame. If we don't blame we will be accountable—which we fear! See the vicious cycle of Satan!

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ge 3:6–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Demons are looking for strongholds and this is the beginning, the first casualty of war—man and woman
- The first casualty is under the first strategy and not much has changed through the years

H.G. Wells once said, “With what we see across the world, we are forced to conclude either that God has the power and does not care, or that God cares and does not have the power.” But Mr. Wells’ logic was incomplete. There is a 3rd possibility and it is the Biblical thought, God’s thought: That God cares and He has the power, and that He had a plan from the beginning which brings order out of chaos, love out of hatred, forgiveness out of shame, and courage out of fear

- And it happened at Calvary on an old rugged cross
- And it was complete when a New Man came to the earth, perfect in every way
- A Man whom Satan could find nothing in
- A Man who lived a sinless life
- A Man who lived a life we could not live and died a death we could not die
- To break the power of Satan, the power of Sin, the power of Demons
- That Perfect Man who “so loved the world”
- Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we

were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

16 And the gift *is* not like *that which* came through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which* came from one *offense* resulted in condemnation, but the free gift *which* came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.