"GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN!"

Matthew 16:21-28
6-24-2018

INTRODUCTION: Verse 21

***Don't be ignorant of Satan's devices!** (II Corinthians 2:11)

I. SATAN'S ATTACK (v. 22-23)

A. Satan will often attack right after a great victory (v. 22a)

B. Satan can attack even through the well-intended advice of a believer who is not Spirit-filled (v. 22b)

C. Satan cannot possess a Christian but can attack the thought life of a believer (v. 23a)

D. Satan's attacks are always with a goal to thwart the cause of Christ (v. 23b)

E. Satan attacks because he abhors the things of God and adores the things of men (v. 23c)

II. SATAN'S DEFEAT (v. 24-26)

How to have victory over Satan's humanistic snare:

A. **Say NO to self. . .** *and say YES to God's will (v. 24a)*

B. **DIE to self. . .** *and LIVE for Christ (v. 24b)*

C. **LOSE your self. . .** *and FIND real life in Christ (v. 25-26)*

CONCLUSION: Christ's REWARDS (v. 27-28)

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E. Satan attacks because he _____ <u>the things of</u> _____ and _____ <u>the things of</u> _____ (v. 23c)

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Throughout the Bible God contrasts His view of things with man's (MacArthur, p. 35).

Isaiah 55:8-9 - *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Prov. 14:12 - *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

Psalm 92:5-6 - *"O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this."*

V. 21

"From that time" - this is the first time Jesus plainly mentions His death in Matthew's gospel.

After being declared the *"Christ"* (the Messiah), it was not an easy thing for the disciples to learn that the Messiah would have to die.

"He must go. . . and suffer" - the death of Christ on Calvary was not an accident; it was ordained by God (Is. 53; Dan. 9:26), and nothing could hinder its fulfillment! (Lk. 24:26)

Jesus had to die to fulfill Scripture (Ps. 16:22; Is. 53; Dan. 9:25-26) to shed His blood (Heb. 9:22) to atone for man's sin and to ransom us (Mt. 20:28).

"Raised again the third day" - this revelation of the resurrection definitely went over the disciples' head (or it went "in one ear and out the other") because their minds were blank to this promise until after Christ appeared to them after His resurrection (Jn. 20:9).

What Jesus reveals here did not fit in with Peter's ideas; it did not match his theology; it did not suit his taste; it did not thrill his soul; it did not square with what Peter anticipated.

***Don't be ignorant of Satan's devices!** (II Corinthians 2:11)

I. SATAN'S <u>ATTACK</u> (v. 22-23)

A. Satan will often attack <u>right after a great victory</u> (v. 22a)

It's scary how quickly Satan can work on a person.

One minute Peter makes the most glorious statement (v. 16), and the next, he makes the biggest blunder with his mouth that he could ever make!

Peter, now with over-confidence, speaking as an acknowledged leader of the disciples (16:19), evidently puffed up with sinful pride, takes it upon himself to question (yea, deny) the words of the Messiah.

B. Satan can attack even through the <u>well-intended advice</u> of a believer who is not Spirit-filled (v. 22b)

"Then Peter took Him" - Peter grabbed hold of Jesus and took Him aside.

"Began to rebuke Him" - this same word *"rebuke"* is used of Jesus rebuking demonic spirits (Mt. 17:18; Mk. 1:25, 9:25).

"Be it far from thee" = lit. "May mercy be upon you!" (like our idiom: "May God have pity/mercy on you!")

Peter in total shock and bewilderment said something like: "May God be gracious to you!"

Peter addressing Jesus as ***"Lord"*** <u>rings hollow</u>, since he is placing his will over Christ's (MacArthur, p. 40).

"This shall not be unto Thee" - Peter uses a double negative (*ou ma*) to stress the absolute impossibility of such a thing happening.

Suffering and death for a mere mortal, yes. But not for the Christ!

Before you are too quick to judge Peter, how often have you (by your thoughts, words, or actions in life) contradicted the Lord's will for you?

The irrational actions and words by Peter show that a diabolical force was motivating and prompting him.

What was Satan saying through Peter? "You deserve something better than God's will."

Satan had earlier offered Jesus a kingdom without a cross (Mt. 4:8-10).

Peter never expected this response from Jesus. In his mind, he thought such a remark to Jesus would show how much he cared for Jesus. (ILLUS: like the paster in Minnesota who told me I should not go to NYC because of all the crime in the city).

Apparently, Jesus was not looking at him when Peter rebuked Him. As they walked, Peter with his arm on Jesus' arm or shoulder, begins to rebuke Him, upon which Jesus turns around, looks Peter straight in the face, and says: ***"Get thee behind me, Satan."*** (ie.e. "Get away from my face, Satan!").

While Michael the archangel would not dare make a railing accusation against Satan (Jude 9), Jesus did not spare!

C. Satan cannot possess a Christian but <u>can attack the thought life</u> of a believer (v. 23a)

Mark 8:33 says that when Jesus turned around and *"looked on his disciples"* - He intended all of his disciples to hear what He was about to say. They, too, (not just Peter) no doubt had the same wicked thought as Peter. It's just that only impetuous Peter had the "quick draw" mouth to say something.

"Before Peter had a chance to finish his objections, Jesus abruptly cut him off and accused him of being the mouthpiece for His adversary, Satan." (MacArthur, p. 41).

"Satan" = adversary; opponent; enemy

"Said unto Peter" - *"He rebuked Peter"* (Mk. 8:33).

Satan on this occasion did <u>not possess</u> Peter, but he did influence Peter's thoughts (Satan cannot possess a believer, but he can put thoughts into our heads. This is why it is so important to continually flood our minds with God's thoughts-- the Bible!)

D. Satan's attacks are always with <u>a goal to thwart the cause of Christ</u> (v. 23b)

"Offense" = *scandalon* (Eng. "scandal") - a deceitful trap or snare; an obstacle designed to hinder or stop someone.

Although there was no way Satan could trap, snare, or stop Christ from fulfilling His mission of going through with the cross, the Devil tried his best (cp. *"Come down from the cross"* - Mt. 27:40, 42; Mk. 15:30).

Satan has no interest in God's cause at all. His doom is sealed; the eternal Lake of Fire awaits him (Rev. 20:10), and he will seek to do anything he can to thwart, disrupt, or de-rail the things of God.

E. Satan attacks because he <u>abhors the things of God</u> and <u>adores the things of men</u> (v. 23c)

"Savourest" = to have a mindset that is totally focused on one thing. To be mentally obsessed with something.

For Satan, his thoughts were (and are) not one bit for the divine cause of God, but for the things of lost, unregenerate, hell-bound men.

Satan passionately hates the things of God. What are the "<u>things of God</u>" (which Satan hates)??

These are all areas Satan attacks:

--The <u>Son</u> of God
Mt. 4:3 - *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*

--The <u>Word</u> of God
Lk. 4:4 - *"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."*

--The <u>will</u> of God
Mk. 3:35 - *"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother,*

and my sister, and mother."

--The <u>church</u> of God
I Cor. 11:22 - *"What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."*
Gal. 1:13 - *"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it"* (cp. I Cor. 10:32; 15:9)

--The <u>kingdom</u> of God
Acts 14:22 - *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."*

--The <u>righteousness</u> of God
Rom. 10:3 - *"For they begin ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."*

--The <u>grace</u> of God
I Cor. 1:4 - *"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ"*
cp. Titus 2:11

--The <u>glory</u> of God
I Cor. 10:31 - *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

--The <u>man</u> of God
I Tim. 6:11 - *"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith..."* (cp. II Tim. 3:17)

--The <u>peace</u> of God (via prayer)
Phil. 4:6-7 - *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

What things does Satan savor? What things of men (unsaved carnal humanity) does Satan love to promote?

"Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of **men**."
What are the "things…of men"?

--The glory of men
Mt. 6:2, 5
Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

--The commandments of men
Mt. 15:9
But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

--The traditions of men
Col. 2:8; cp. Mk. 7:8
Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

--The heart of men
Mk. 7:21; cp. Jer. 17:9
For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

--The praise of men
Jn. 12:43
For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

--The ungodliness and unrighteousness of men
Ro. 1:18
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

--The wisdom of men
I Cor. 2:5
That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

--The <u>sleight</u> (deceit) of men
Eph. 4:14
That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

--The <u>lusts</u> of men
I Peter 4:2
That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

--The <u>sight</u> of men
Rev. 13:13
And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

II. SATAN'S DEFEAT (v. 24-26)

How to have victory over Satan's humanistic snare:

A. **Say NO to self. . .** *and say YES to God's will (v. 24a)*

"If any man will come after Me" - "If any one desires (wishes) to follow me" - This does not refer to the means to salvation, but to sanctification; not relationship with Christ, but fellowship with Christ.

"Deny himself" - (*aparneomai* - a strengthened form of *arneomai*) - meaning to utterly say "no" to oneself; to turn away from your own self-centered ways; to totally disregard one's own selfish ways.

When a conflict of wills occurs (God's will vs. our old nature's) and we by the power of God's Spirit under the direction of God's Word choose to say "No" to selfish impulses, we have denied self.

When our flesh screams out for gratification (outside of God's ordained boundaries) and we don't give in but rather disregard temptation's cry, we have denied self.

True Christian maturity is not when we do right because we feel like it, but when we do right when we don't feel like it.

B. **DIE to self. . .** *and LIVE for Christ (v. 24b)*

"Take up - the imperative anticipates willingness to do so. You must decide or choose to take it up.

The "cross" to which Jesus refers is not a physical handicap nor a "nagging wife" nor a "domineering mother-in-law" (MacArthur, p. 48).

"His cross" - Each one of us must take our own cross, our own instrument of death.

Each must die to self for oneself!

Such cross bearing is to be *"daily"* according to Luke 9:23.

In response to Peter's repulsive remark against suffering and dying (v. 22),

Jesus tells him that unless He is willing to suffer, he cannot be a true disciple of Christ.

The "cross" was a common symbol of death. Many were hung on them, but none of their own volition. The purpose of the cross was not to bear it, but to die on it.

Jesus calls upon us to radically abandon our life for the purpose of living for Him! To die to our own plans, our own ambitions, our own desires, our own goals, our own praise and glory, our own fame and fortune. . . all for the purpose of fulfilling His plans, ambitions, desires. . .

Gal. 2:20 - *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

"The only good Christian is a dead Christian" (dead to self, that is).

"And follow Me" - Jesus is not calling upon us to deny self and die to self for no purpose. Our purpose is to free us from that which keeps us from following Christ.

How well you follow Christ can be measured by how often you choose His ways over yours!

C. **<u>LOSE</u> your self. . .** *and <u>FIND</u> real life in Christ (v. 25-26)*

"For" = Because. Jesus gives a reason why we must be willing to die to self.

The reason is simple: Those whose sole interest is to preserve one's life will end up losing his life.

The greatest test of verse 25 will come in the future Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21), when the test will be: "Take the mark 666 or die" (Rev. 13). Those who do take it show by doing so their allegiance to Satan and his diabolical "Antichrist." They think they will live, when in reality, they will die for eternity! (Rev. 14:9-11).

"For My sake" - Our sacrifice of self is not in vain. It is for Jesus. Everything we do should be for Him.

"For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21)

"Soul" - the immaterial part of man (used synonymously with *"spirit"* in this verse).

The soul is the inner real you. it is that aspect of you which will exist forever, even after death (Rev. 6:9).

What do you gain if you acquire the whole world (with all its temporary gold, luxury, pleasure, fame, etc.) and yet lose your soul forever!

"Give in exchange" - What would you trade for your soul? There is nothing as valuable, important, vital, or precious to you as your own soul!

Many have forfeited their "soul" for a cheap, temporary, brief, fleeting moment of happiness

--for the foolish farmer it was his self-sufficiency and material security
(Lk.12:20)
--for the rich man it was his sumptuous living (Lk. 16)
--for Judas it was a bag of 20 pieces of silver
--for those who receive the mark of the Beast, it will be to *"buy and sell"* (to keep their business open) (Rev. 13)

So many sell out so cheaply!

--For many today it's a sexual encounter that leads to AIDS. . . it's a drug high that leads to an overdose and death. . . it's a bottle that leads to a car crash. . . .

CONCLUSION: **Christ's <u>REWARDS</u>** (v. 27-28)

"The glory of His Father" = the same glory (brilliant brightness) the Father has.

For the Son to share the glory of God, He must be equal with God, because God said He would not share His glory with another (Is. 42:8).

"With His angels" - cp. Mt. 24:31 - *"And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

"<u>Then</u> He shall reward" - Christ rewards his people (those who were willing to deny self and die to self and follow Him) at the moment of the Rapture.

"Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me."

"Every man" = i.e. every man who has a reward coming! There are no rewards for the unsaved, only punishment.

"According to his works" - The rewards are based on your practice, your over-all life emphasis, your selfless conduct.

"Some standing here" - namely, Peter, James and John (17:1)

This verse was fulfilled in 17:2. Christ's kingdom was "seen" by this inner circle on the Mount of Transfiguration (a preview of His coming splendor).