

Duplicating The Devil

- Aesop used **animals** to teach morals
- **Evil men** can teach us . . . what not to do
- Does **satan** serve as a good example for us?

Jesus used satan's example
to instruct disciples

Mark 3 (1/4)

15: apostles: power to cast out demons

22: absurd charge: satan casts out satan

- Jesus dominated demons (Mk.1:27)

23: satan is too smart to divide his forces

- Jesus uses satan's example to teach disciples
- Disciples / churches who fight among themselves undo their good work

Mark 3 (2/4)

24-26: kingdom / house divided can't stand

- If satan rises against himself, he is finished.
- Satan knows: strength depends on unity.
- This answers charge of v.22.
- Satan is not suicidal (to divide forces); his unity is an example to disciples.

Mark 3 (3/4)

27: Jesus did enter house of strong man (satan) and take his possessions

- Conclusion: a stronger than satan is here . . . and has bound him

Mark 3 (4/4)

Summary

24-26: Lord gives satan credit for consistency (in promoting his evil cause)

1. Mt.23:2-3, Pharisees (in Moses' seat)
2. Lk.16:...8-10, evil steward (future prep)

**We can learn from anyone
– even satan**

I. He Never Gives Up

1 Kings 13

- Young prophet did everything right
 - Rebuked evil king
 - Did not eat in Israel
- BUT: let guard down on way home; believed old prophet's lies
- He never made it home

Satan never quits

Satan is still persistent

- Mt.16²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

[= Matthew 4 in different dress]

- Lk.22³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.
 - Gal.2:...11-13

Satan is still persistent

- Mt.16²³
- Lk.22³¹
- 2 Tim.4¹⁰ Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world.

Satan's Strategy...

¹Do not obey gospel

²Forsake assemblies

³Do not listen

⁴Apply to others

- Reject satan every day for 100 years...
- David: stellar reputation...

Satan is still persistent

- Mt.16²³
- Lk.22³¹
- 2 Tim.4¹⁰
- 1 Co.5⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
 - Recognize him for what he is; give him to his master...
 - 2 Co.2 – defeated satan

Satan is still persistent

- Mt.16²³
- Lk.22³¹
- 2 Tim.4¹⁰
- 1 Co.5⁵
- 1 Tim.1¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Are we persistent in gospel?

- Bible study? Jn.8:31-32?
- Evangelism? Jn.9:4?
- Godliness? Jn.17:14-16?

I. He Never Gives Up

II. He Gets All Help He Can Find

Job 1-2 . . .

- Job lost . . .
 - Possessions
 - Children
 - Health
 - Wife
 - Friends
 - Servants
 - Neighbors...

Satan enlists helpers

Mt.16:23, Peter

Jn.6:70, Judas

Do we get all the help we need?

- Jn.17:20-21
 - Nothing could stop united disciples...
 - But division would defeat them
- Hb.10:24
 - We are not in competition with others
 - We need one another

I. He Never Gives Up

II. He Gets All Help He Can Find

**III. He Focuses His Powers
Against Our Weaknesses**

Mt.4, tempted Jesus at vulnerable places

- Hunger: distrust God.
 - Jesus relied on Father, not miraculous power...as we must
- Scripture: false trust in God.
 - “If you really trust God, jump!”
- Mission: misplaced trust in God.
 - Jesus would not trust satan
 - Jesus would not obtain crown without cross

We can resist temptation

- Mt.5²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - Two choices –
 1. I can't help it
 2. I will not give in

We can resist temptation

- 1 Co.10¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
 - God gives greatest help / guarantee
 - James 4:7
 - Joseph, Gn.39

We can resist temptation

- 1 Tim.5¹³ And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.
 - Temptation to gossip
 - We can resist . . . or yield

We can resist temptation

- 2 Tim.2¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - Diligence can defeat temptation...

God's help gives us strength

- Ph.4¹³ I can do all things ... through Him ... Who strengthens me
- Ph.4⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I. He Never Gives Up

II. He Gets All Help He Can Find

III. He Focuses On Our Weaknesses

IV. He Is Loyal To His Cause

Gn.3 to eternity: one focus

Fight God and His people

Divided Christians are easy prey

- Problems in families
- Problems in nations
- Problems in churches...

God's people tend to detour from God's plan

- **Josh.24:15, indecision**

- Indecision paralyzes spiritual power
 - It shuts out thanksgiving
 - It cripples perseverance

- **Jg.21:25, right in own eyes**

- This eye trouble caused
 - Achan to see garments/gold, not God
 - Gehazi to see Naaman's treasure...
 - Judas to see glitter of silver...

God's people tend to detour from God's plan

- **1 K.18:21**

- Spiritual confusion is fatal

- **Mt.6:33**

- Priorities

- **Nothing** is more important than serving God

Satan is our eternal enemy

- He does many things we dare not imitate
- But we can use some of his own traits against him
- Lk.4¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him **until an opportune time**
 - Satan had been thoroughly defeated
 - He does not give up...but waits for favorable opportunity