



Sermon Title: Calling Satan's Bluff

Date: December 26, 2021

Sometimes, in poker, it's clear that one person has a better hand than the other and will win the game and the chips in the pot. However, sometimes when a player with the lesser hand calls "All in" and pushes all their chips to the middle, that's called bluffing. They're trying to fool you into thinking they have something better than you do. Satan is trying to bluff. He's trying to fool you.

Big idea: Satan's bluff is nothing compared to God's power.

That big idea has three truths that encompass it

1. Satan is not the ultimate authority

Throughout our lives, we have authority figures that we listen to. However, in some people's lives, some try to make you go against what is right. In Job chapter 1, Satan was trying to get a servant of God to go against Him (**Job 1:1**). Job was a true man of God, but Satan was calling Job's godliness into question. **Job 1:9-11**

Satan wants to attack him –to tear Job's life from limb from limb, to show that Job only believes in God because of how he's been blessed and protected by God. God permits Satan to attack Job, but he isn't to lay a hand on his person because God limited him.

Job was stripped of almost everything: livestock, property, his children. Yet, verse 22 says, "**In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.**"

God can use anything, good or bad, and even the works of the enemy for good in the lives of those who love Him (**Romans 8:28**). God used Satan's attack on Job to show His faithfulness and His ultimate authority by using what Satan had brought against Job for good. If we look at the end of Job's story, we see that his health and wealth are restored, and he is blessed with the birth of 10 children.

2. God has secured victory over the enemy

During trials, continue fighting with victory as your goal because God has proclaimed victory over the enemy, sin, and death by sending Jesus to the cross for our sins.

Here are a few verses to see what exactly Satan's desires are:

Mark 4:15, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 2 Corinthians 11:3

Satan wants nothing more than our faith to be placed in the wrong things, which is anything other than God (**Peter 5:8**). Satan is pictured a few ways in scripture (a fowler (Psalm 91:3), an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), but this image from Peter shows us that Satan is full of intimidation. However, remember that the sacrifice given for us is Jesus, the Lion of Judah!

The death of the Lion of Judah defanged the lion that Satan walks as, giving him no true power (**Colossian 2:13-15**). Even though Jesus's death was on display for everyone to see, people also had a front-row seat to see God claim victory over the enemy and his ways for the rest of eternity. Satan was disarmed on that day.

3. God has equipped us with means to protect ourselves

In James 4:7, there are two steps to standing firm against Satan "**Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**" Both steps are important. Submitting to God, surrendering ourselves to Him as a conquering King, resisting the devil, standing against his effort to intimidate. Ephesians, we can see that we are told to equip ourselves with something very specific. In Ephesians 6:11-13, we are told how to do that.

God used this armor Himself to battle His enemies and protect His people (**Isaiah 59:17**). Now, He wants us to come before Him and equip it to stand against Satan himself.

We are told to submit to God so that we can resist the devil. One way that we submit to God is by putting on His spiritual armor and everything that is encompassed with it. When that happens, Satan no longer sees us, but he sees God shining off of that armor. At that moment, instead of standing and doing battle, Satan turns into a coward and flees in the other direction. The battle is won! We've not only submitted to the most powerful God, but we've equipped ourselves with the strongest set of armor for spiritual warfare.

We serve the powerful God almighty! Satan is not the ultimate authority. God has proclaimed victory over him, and we are equipped with the means to protect ourselves. When we realize that, we are victorious in our battle against him.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some popular strategies Satan uses to attack believers and non-believers?**
- **Does Satan know he is defeated? Explain. Why does he keep trying?**
- **When have you seen someone resist the attacks of the devil? What did they do to resist and overcome?**
- **Explain a time when you saw a believer put on the armor of God.**
- **Describe a time when the enemy attacked you, and what was the result?**
- **God put limitations on Satan's attack on Job. How does that affect your view of God?**