

# Introduction

## 1. Eject Like Judas

**Matthew 27:3-6** - Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money."

## 2. Engage Like Jesus

- (1) Incarnation in the world
- (2) Temptation in the wilderness
- (3) Confrontation in the towns
- (4) Oppression in the garden
- (5) Crucifixion in the capital  
Palm Sunday war

# I. Withstand The Schemes of the Devil

**Ephesians 6:11** - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

## 1. "The Devil"

(1) Devil = slanderer

1. Accuse = speak false to
2. Slander = speak false about (reputation)

(2) Speaking false statements about who? Let's examine text to find out.

## 2. "The Schemes"

(1) Schemes = methodical = follow closely; lie in wait deceive

1. Active not passive

(2) The vehicle of his schemes

1. The World - external solicitation to sin
2. The Flesh - internal solicitation to sin
3. The Devil - supernatural solicitation to sin

### (3) The Form of his schemes

1. Accusation (Identity)
2. Temptation (Desires)

**James 1:13-14** - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

### 3. "Withstand" (Fishing)

- (1) Withstand = stanai = to stand; dig in; immovable

**James 4:7** - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- (2) Resist → Flee

Satan can be resisted is a tremendous encouragement to believers. The devil is not so powerful that he can force them to do that which they refuse to do. The battle may be intense and the resistance prolonged, but the promise stands true—Satan will flee.

Resistance involves submitting to God, refusing to comply, putting on the armor of God, committing oneself to obedience to God's Word, praying for strength, and, if the resistance is prolonged, seeking the intercession of others.

### (3) Good news for oppressed & possessed

1. Subjugated, not annihilated

## II. The Content of His schemes (Glander God)

1. God cannot be trusted
  - (1) God is not enough
2. If It feels right, it can't be wrong
  - (1) God is not understanding
  - (2) Flesh = no power
3. Some things can't be forgiven
  - (1) God is not gracious
4. Sexual purity is for prudes
  - (1) God is not holy
5. Pain should be avoided at all costs
  - (1) God is not good
6. God grades on a curve
  - (1) God is not just



## Summary

- Satan uses the vehicles for his schemes.

① The World's ideas

② the Flesh's desires

1. Erode Evangelism
2. Distort doctrine
3. Subvert sacraments
4. Demonize Disciple
5. Fracture Families
6. Frustrate Fellowship
7. Obliterate offerings
8. Pulverize Pastors
9. Attack assurance
10. Hate on Holiness

- To conceal the form of his schemes:

① Accusation

② Temptations

- So he can promote the content of his schemes

① See previous

- To ensure the objective of his schemes:

- ① Diminished awareness & understanding of God
- ② Diminished joy & effectiveness in God

### III Put On The Armor of God

1. Put on = imperative

(1) Wear; clothe

2. Able = Dynamic

(1) Present, passive = someone dressed you

3. The Armor of God's Warrior

(Not a Roman guard, but of figure)

(1) Belt of Truth  
1. Father of Lies

The belt of truth comes from Isaiah. In Isaiah 11, God's people, Israel, had turned their back on the light and chosen to live in darkness, spurning the Lord's revelation. Yet God promised he would send a messianic figure from the line of David to deliver them: **Isaiah 11:5** "Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins."

The Greek translation of the Old Testament uses the same Greek word (aletheia) for faithfulness in Isaiah 11 that Paul uses in Ephesians 6, where our English versions translate it as truth.

(2) Start of truth as the foundational piece of armor

(3) Belt holds tunic, weapons in place.

(4) Defensive component

(5) Counterfeit Spotting  
1. News right now & feeds

## (1) Breastplate of Righteousness

### 1. Vital organs

Drawn directly from **Isa. 59:17**. There the prophet says, "He put on righteousness as a breastplate...he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak."

In the preceding chapters, Isaiah describes God's promise to deal with the physical enemies of his people, especially Babylon. But now the prophet describes the divine warrior coming to deal with the far greater and more dangerous enemy of their souls: sin.

### 2. Imputed Righteousness

### 3. Works of the Flesh = vulnerable to anger, divisions, lust, etc.

## (2) Shoes of the Gospel

the picture draws directly on **Isa. 53:7**: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" Ephesians 6 and Isaiah 52 (together with Nahum 1) are the only passages in the Bible where the words feet, good news, and peace occur together.

1. Readiness given by Gospel of Peace.
2. Readiness to spread the Gospel of Peace? (Is. 52)
3. I opt for the latter.
4. Gospel produces peace which in turn produces readiness to advance

5. If you want to get your own foothold, then preach the Gospel so battles can be won.

#### (4) Shield of Faith

Throughout the Old Testament, it is God, not faith, that is repeatedly described as our shield. In **Gen. 15:1** the Lord tells Abraham, "I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." Prov. 30:5 says, "[God] is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

1. Faith is the means
  1. God is the shield
  3. Through persecution & suffering
  4. Satan is shooting dart at you right now
5. Without faith, you're left hoping social distancing & N95 mask will do the trick for everything?

#### (5) Helmet of Salvation

also drawn directly from **Isa. 59:17**. There the prophet says, "He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak."

1. Battle for your mind

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

## 2. Mind changes us

**Rom. 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. Gospel itself  
Kingdom ← Mind → World

4. How we think will ultimately determine how we live

## (6) Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, is drawn from **Isa. 49:2**. There the promised servant of the Lord says, "[The Lord] made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away."

In other words, the Lord was preparing his servant to come as a warrior with sharp words of judgment. In the original context, the servant was Israel, who was supposed to be God's faithful servant, equipped by him to bring light to the Gentiles.

1. Truth on offense

1. God's word wounds

① Us

② Others

**Heb. 4:12** - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

③ Satan

**1 John 2:14b** - I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

offense

## (7) Prayer in the Spirit (v18)

**Eph. 6:18** - ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...

**Isaiah 49:3-4** - And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God."

1. 7 = Complete

2. Offensive Prayer  
(i.e. Lord's Prayer)

A nighttime routine that invites the presence of God into your home is essential. This can include such things as praying over the home, Bible reading, personal prayer, worship, repenting of any sin, and what we call "offensive prayer." By this we mean prayer that takes an offensive stance against the enemy. Too often Christians are on the defensive, waiting for an enemy strike and then responding. In any war it is better to be on the offensive, striking your enemies before they strike you.

Throughout the Book of Psalms you can find prayerful worship songs to pray and worship **offensively** against foes both spiritual and physical (e.g., Ps. 18; 27; 31; 35; 83). In the worst season of spiritual war, a season in which we felt under attack day and night, we wrote out Psalm 31 and posted it in our bedroom to remind us of God's promises and to pray **offensively**. We can confirm that as we wage war against the demonic realm by **praying** and worshipping God, the presence and peace of God occupy the center of our lives and drive out whatever is dark and demonic. Not only are such things as demonic influence and night terrors driven out by prayer and worship, but so are potential idols in our lives that seek to take God's place, which we will learn about next.

# Conclusion Dad's clothes

Isaiah's 49, there was much that needed to be judged and condemned in Israel and Judah themselves. They were not fit to be the Lord's servant, so he had to send his servant to bring light to them as well as to the Gentiles.

- Jn 14:6 (1) Jesus is the messianic figure w/ faithfulness & truth as his belt
- 1 Cor 1:30 (2) Jesus is the warrior sent by God w/ righteousness on his chest
- Jn 12:49-50 (3) Jesus is the messenger who brings good news of glad tidings & is always at the ready
- 1 Pet. 1:5 (4) Jesus carries a wooden shield in the shape of a cross & is our protection from sin, death, & evil
- Php. 4:7 (5) Jesus is the divine avenger & He Himself is our salvation who transforms & guards our minds.
- Rev. 19:5 (6) Jesus is the terrible, swift sword of God against Satan & demons & all the powers of Hell
- Rom 8:34 (7) Jesus makes intercession for us asking the Father to forgive

Jesus IS the Armor of God

VIDEO