

10-04-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: Unmasked, pt-5

Purpose: Purpose: (1) Expose how satan controls and manipulates people, especially through the love of money, and (2) Provoke people to recognize and resist satan's attempt to control us.

Spiritual Truth: Satan tries to control and manipulate us. We must recognize and resist him.

Text: John 12:3-7

Topic: Satan, Devil, Control, Manipulation, Judas, Love of Money

Series title: Unmasked

Series purp.: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.

Unmasked, pt-5

I. Introduction: Intro Travis, 50th anniversary: past, present and future. dad birthday

A. Series: Unmasked pt-5. We're exposing the schemes of the devil so we can resist them.

Today we'll talk about how satan tries to control and manipulate us, through the love of money, sexual lust, lust for power, unforgiveness, pride, or envy and jealousy.

II. Satan manipulated and controlled Judas through the love of money

[John 12:3–7 (NLT) Mary took a...jar of expensive perfume...and she anointed Jesus' feet with it...4 But **Judas Iscariot**...said, 5 "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." 6 **Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.**] Luke 22:4-5 (NLT) he went to the leading priests...to discuss the best way to **betray Jesus**... 5... they promised to give him **money**. Last Supper, [Jn. 13:21–29 (NLT)]...Satan **entered into him**. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do." 28 **None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant**. 29... some thought Jesus was telling him to...give some money to the poor.]

1. "Satan entered Judas" implies (1) influence and manipulation of inner desires, not robotic control or appearances like the Exorcist. (2) a willingness to say yes to his suggestions. Judas wasn't a crazed, demon possessed maniac. His closest friends didn't even know he was under satan's influence.

2. How could anyone betray the Savior of the world and trade his soul for silver coins? Money was the most important thing in Judas' life. He'd do anything to get more, and The love of money was the door satan used to manipulate and control Judas. **\$100**. Money is not evil. God blesses us with money to meet our needs, enjoy life, save and invest in the KOG but if we love money more than God, satan will control us.

B. How did satan control and manipulate Judas to betray Jesus? Satan entered through a door Judas opened. The door was the love of money. When he let money be his master, he gradually let satan influence his decisions. [1 Tim. 6:9–10 (NLT) But people who

long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the **love of money** is the **root** of all kinds of **evil**. And some people, **craving money**, have **wandered from the true faith** and pierced themselves with **many sorrows**.]

III. Satan has a strategic process to manipulate and control people to do his bidding.

- A. #1 He finds a door of weakness rooted in our fleshly desires. For Judas, the door was money. The same thing can happen when (1) Sexual lust leads us to be controlled by pornography and we abuse a child, (2) The lust for power will make us sacrifice our values for votes or a higher position, (3) Unforgiveness will turn into anger, hatred, and end in violence, (4) Pride will make us act superior and feel entitled and belittle others, (5) Envy and jealousy will make us act dishonestly to get what we want.
- B. #2 Satan feeds our desire over time, e.g., Judas stole money with no consequences. Sinning over time becomes a spiritual stronghold taking root in our mind and desires. If we don't resist the thoughts, impulses, and desires satan will take over
- C. #3 Something happens to push us over the edge and do satan's bidding. Context: Mary anoints Jesus's feet [Mk 14:6–15 (NLT)] Jesus replied...Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? 7 You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to...10 **Then** Judas...went to the leading priests to arrange to **betray** Jesus...11...and they promised to give him **money**.] Jesus' rebuke touched his money-god, Judas got offended, and satan used the offense to push him into betrayal.

IV. How can we avoid letting Satan use money to control us like Judas did?

- A. Make our life's #1 ambition to love God and serve Him, more than success and getting rich. [Mt. 6:24 (NLT)] "No one can serve two masters. ...you will be **devoted to one and (NCV refuse to follow) the other**. You **cannot serve God and be enslaved to money**.] or be enslaved to sexual lust, lust for power, unforgiveness, pride, or envy and jealousy.
- B. Settle the ownership issue. Am I the owner or a steward? Am, I in charge of my financial and material world or is Jesus Lord of what I do with money. The evidence is my giving. If I spend all I have on me, satan may have a hook in me.
- C. Pray before you make financial decisions. This act of submission puts God 1st.

V. Conclusion: Is there a door open in our life that satan can use to control us?

- A. Prayer: Ask God to help you close the door and give you a greater desire for Him.
- B. We won't find true, lasting happiness through money, power, success or pleasure. Lasting happiness and purpose in life is found through a personal relationship with God.
Problem- Solution-Decision

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

- A. <https://worshiphousemedia.com/products/mini-movies-mm-dun-00000007-speak-of-the-devil>

VII. Supplemental Material

- A. [Luke 22:3 (NLT) Then **Satan entered into Judas Iscariot...**] and he betrayed Jesus to be crucified.
- B. Video: <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/64492/the-devil> stop at 2:03
1. Satan operates in the unseen world. He isn't a red devil in hell with a pitchfork, he roams about the earth opposing God and His people. He is behind the violence on our city streets but people don't see him. He is behind the murderous acts of an abortion clinic but hides behind politicians. He is behind the upheaval of immorality but hides behind individual rights. In this series, we're going to unmask him.
- C. Today I want to show you how he can gain control over people and cause them to do things that don't make sense and will destroy their life. We'll see how he used money to get Judas to betray Jesus and then look at 2 of his most successful tactics to influence us.
1. Title: "Takeover"
 2. Def takeover: to assume control or possession; to become dominant. Satan used a weakness in Judas' life to manipulate him into betraying Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. If he could deceive Judas, he can deceive us.
- D. 2 major doors we can open to demonic influence: the love of money and sexual lust.

The love of money: 1 Timothy 6:9–19 (NLT) But people who **long to be rich** fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the **love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows...

1. Money isn't evil. We all need it and God promises to provide it. If misused it can destroy us; if properly used, money invested in God's Kingdom can bring eternal dividends, e.g. COTR building expansion, making decisions. Danger is when money becomes more important than God and satan can destroy us like he did Judas.
2. Antidote/ Balance: Verse 17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our **enjoyment**. 18 Tell them to **use their money to do good**. They should **be rich in good work and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others**
3. As a Christian I'm a steward of all God allows me to have. I use money and don't let it control me through greed. God blesses me with \$ to meet my needs/ daily bread, to

enjoy/ have fun, save some and use the rest to build the KOG and help others. This way I'll avoid the trap of the man who built bigger barns, the rich man who ignored poor Lazarus and the young ruler who loved money more than God.

E. 1 Pet 5:8–9 (NIV) Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him**, standing firm in the faith...

1. Satan wants to exploit our weaknesses to advance his agenda, just like he did Judas. Don't listen to his lies. Don't let his thoughts grow in your mind. If you do, you'll stay on the path of life and your Heavenly Father will smile on you!

F. The love of money is only one door for the devil to manipulate and control us.

Sexual lust and pornography. Samson, a judge and deliverer in Israel. [Judges 16:1–5 (NLT) One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and **spent the night with a prostitute**...4 Some time later Samson **fell in love with a woman named Delilah**...5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered..."] Satan will try to cause illicit sex to control our life, destroy our family and destroy our witness, e.g. divorce, molestation

1. Anger, hatred, violence, and murder. [Ge. 4:3–8 (NLT)...Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel...brought...the best portions of the firstborn lambs...The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, 5 but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very **angry**...7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! **Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.**" 8 One day ...while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and **killed him**.] Anger is a normal human emotion. It can grow and when fueled by hatred cause a violent eruption.
2. Fear paralyzes us from doing God's will, e.g., 10 spies; // go to the mission field.
3. Pride, i.e. I did it; it's all about me. Daniel 4:28–30 (NLT) King Nebuchadnezzar ... 30 looked out across...Babylon! **By my own mighty power, I have built** this beautiful city as **my royal residence** to display **my majestic splendor.**' // God makes us successful and wealthy for a Kingdom purpose. Instead, we live only for ourselves.
4. Envy/ jealousy, [Matthew 27:17–18 (NLT) As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus... 18 (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of **envy**.)] Satan uses our desire to have what others have to control us.
5. For a few dollars he betrayed Jesus, committed suicide and went to hell.
 - a. (1) In his mind money became too important to him.

- i. Judas loved money more than he loved God.

- b. (2) He violated principles to get it, i.e. lied (caring for the poor was a pretense) and he stole from God's work to get it. John 12:6 (NLT) **Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief...he often stole some for himself.**
 - c. (3) John 13:2 (ESV) During supper, when the devil had **already put it into the heart** of Judas Iscariot (NIV prompted, NCV persuaded) ...to betray him. Judas lost the battle in his mind when he embraced the thought. Acts 5:3 (ESV) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"
 - d. (4) (Context forgiveness) 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NLT) **so that Satan will not outsmart us.** For we are familiar with his evil schemes. Judas was outsmarted and it cost him everything.
- G. Proverbs 30:7–9 (NLT) O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die.
⁸ First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹ For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.
- H. Instead of happiness, satan gives remorse and shame. When he's **done using us**, he throws **us away**. [Matthew 27:3–5 (NLT) When Judas...realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests...4...I have betrayed an innocent man." "**What do we care?**" ... "That's your problem." 5 Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and **hanged himself**.] satan is a user. Let's not let him use us.
- I. [Mark 12:28–30 (NLT) One of the teachers of religious law...asked (*Jesus*), "Of all the commandments, which is the **most important?**" 29 Jesus replied...30...**love the Lord your God with all your heart...**']
- J. [James 4:7 (NLT) So humble yourselves before God (*NCV give yourselves completely to God*). **Resist the devil, and he will flee** from you.] Before we can resist him, we must recognize the open door in our life: love of money, unforgiveness, sexual lust, anger, hatred and violence, pride, or envy and jealousy. If we don't resist satan he'll try to control us through inner desires left unchecked. The starting place is to "*give ourselves completely to God*".