

Christian Students @ SAC
College Meeting - Fall 2022
Week 5

BASIC LESSONS ON LIFE
LESSON FOUR
SATAN'S PLOT TO SPOIL MAN

Scripture Reading: Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 7:17-18a, 21, 23; Eph. 2:1, 12; 4:18

I. BEING GOD'S ADVERSARY

Satan is God's adversary. Matthew 13:28a is nearly the only verse in the New Testament that tells us that Satan is God's enemy. In Matthew 13:28 the word *enemy* is used, but we have to realize that Satan is not only God's enemy but also God's adversary. This is because he is within the circle where God is (Job 1:6). The name *Satan*, from Hebrew, means *adversary*. He was and still is not only an enemy from outside but also an adversary from inside.

II. HIDING HIMSELF IN THE SUBTLE SERPENT

Genesis 3:1 shows that Satan hid himself in the subtle serpent. For this point we can also use 2 Corinthians 11:3 and Revelation 12:9. Satan is always hiding himself in something, in some matter, or even in some person. In Matthew 16 Satan was hiding himself in Peter, so the Lord Jesus even called Peter "Satan" (v. 23). When Satan first came to man, he was hiding himself in a serpent. Because Satan was hiding himself in the serpent, eventually his name is called the ancient serpent in Revelation 12:9.

III. PREVENTING GOD BY CONTACTING MAN EARLIER

God's intention was to enter into man to be man's life. But in the Bible we can see that when Satan realizes that God intends to do something, he will do it earlier, to prevent God from carrying out His intention. Thus, before God came to enter into man, Satan came. Because God is great, He would not force man to choose Him and receive Him. Satan acted first to enter into man earlier than God in an attempt to prevent God from carrying out His desire with man.

It seems that God always comes later than we expect Him. John 11 tells us that when the Lord heard that Lazarus was sick, He remained in the place where He was for two days (v. 6). During this time Lazarus died, and then the Lord went to raise him from the dead. Martha and Mary both told the Lord, "If You had been here, my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32).

IV. APPROACHING THE WOMAN BY TOUCHING HER MIND

The subtle adversary of God approached the female, the weaker vessel, by touching her mind. In Genesis 3:1b he asked the woman, "Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" This was a question put into Eve's mind, and this question stirred up her doubting mind. This is a strong point that we have to stress. Satan would always approach people by touching their doubting mind. Here Satan

questioned something concerning God, and this questioning, no doubt, aroused the mind of Eve. Satan did this to keep Eve from using her spirit. When God comes to us, He always touches our spirit. When Satan comes to us, he always comes to our mind. Our spirit is the “room” that God comes to touch, and our mind is the “room” that Satan comes to touch. Satan will always come to touch the human mind.

V. CAUSING THE HUMAN MIND TO DOUBT GOD’S WORD

After Satan came to touch the female mind, he caused the human mind to doubt God’s word (v. 4). In verse 1 of Genesis 3, he stirred up Eve’s mind; then in verses 2 and 3 Eve began to talk to him. This meant that Eve had fallen into the snare already. Eve should not have talked with the serpent or answered him. She should have stood on God’s word and run away from this tempter. Instead of running away, she responded by saying, “Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die” (vv. 2-3). This little talk meant that Eve had fallen into the snare already. Her answer opened the door for the serpent to say to the woman, “You shall not surely die!” (v. 4). This is a further step Satan took to deal with the female mind. Satan not only came to touch her mind, but eventually Satan caused the human mind to doubt God’s word. This means that the poison of the serpent got into her mind, because the word of Satan got into her. When the word gets in, the person gets in. Thus, the human mind was poisoned, contaminated.

VI. USURPING MAN TO FRUSTRATE GOD FROM FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE

Satan usurped man to frustrate God from fulfilling His purpose. Today mankind is in the hand of Satan, and Satan uses the whole human race to do his will, to frustrate God from fulfilling God’s purpose. Man was made by God to fulfill God’s purpose. But man fell into the usurping hand of Satan, so man is being used by Satan to fulfill Satan’s purpose. This is the plot of Satan to spoil man.

Satan spoiled man by contaminating man’s soul and deadening his spirit. Man’s body was ruined to become the flesh. In the flesh, man’s ruined body, there is sin, and when this sin acts, it is “the evil” (Rom. 7:21). Sin and evil are the same thing. The term sin mostly denotes the nature, whereas the term the evil mostly denotes the activities. Actually, both sin and the evil are Satan himself. Satan himself in our flesh is sin. When sin acts, it is the evil. We can see that the whole human being became utterly fallen by eating the tree of knowledge. The soul was contaminated, the spirit was deadened, and the body was ruined.

Questions

1. Nowadays, how does Satan attack man? Share a personal experience.
2. How can we practically stop Satan’s attacks to our mind?