

THE DEVIL IS A DEFEATED FOE

Group Bible Study & Sermon Discussion

Main Idea

The devil is a defeated foe. Jesus has already won the victory, but believers must know that victory, believe it, and learn to walk in the authority Christ has given them.

Opening Question: What is one statement, Scripture, or idea from the sermon that stood out to you most? Why?

1. VICTORY OVER FEAR

One of the main ideas of the sermon was that believers can live in unnecessary fear of an enemy Jesus has already defeated.

The illustration was given of the devil being like a roaring lion whose teeth have been removed. He can make noise. He can intimidate. But believers need to understand what Jesus has already accomplished.

Discuss

1. Why do you think Christians can know that Jesus defeated the devil and still be afraid of him?
2. What is the difference between recognizing that the enemy is real and living in fear of him?
3. Can fear cause us to give the enemy more influence in our lives than he actually has? How?
4. What does it look like practically to live as though Jesus has already won?

Bonus Scripture — 1 Peter 5:8–9

Peter tells believers that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, but then gives the command:

“Resist him.”

5. Why does Scripture tell us to resist the devil rather than fear him?
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2. THE TIMELINE OF THE ENEMY'S DEFEAT

The sermon traces Satan's defeat through Scripture.

His Rebellion — Isaiah 14:12–17

The repeated language is striking:

“I will...”

His rebellion was rooted in pride and self-exaltation.

6. What do the repeated “I will” statements reveal about the nature of Satan's rebellion?
7. What warning does that give us concerning pride in our own lives?

The Promise — Genesis 3:14–15

Immediately after humanity's fall, God announced that the seed of the woman would strike the serpent's head.

The enemy's defeat was being announced almost from the beginning.

8. Why is Genesis 3:15 important to the message of this sermon?

9. What does it tell you about God's plan that He was already speaking about victory immediately after the fall?

The Accomplishment — 1 John 3:8

The sermon emphasizes the declaration that the Son of God appeared **“to destroy the works of the devil.”**

10. What does that statement tell us about one of the purposes of Jesus' coming?

11. When you read the Gospels, what works of the devil do you see Jesus confronting?

3. WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS?

Colossians 2:13–15

This is one of the key passages of the sermon.

At the Cross, Jesus dealt with what stood against us and **disarmed the rulers and authorities**, making a public display of them and triumphing over them.

Discuss

12. What does the word “disarmed” mean to you in this passage?

13. According to Colossians 2, what happened to the record that stood against us?

14. Why is understanding what happened at the Cross important when we're dealing with fear of the enemy?

15. Are we trying to defeat Satan—or learning to stand in a victory Jesus has already won? What's the difference?

Hebrews 2:14–15

The sermon also connects Christ's victory with freedom from the **fear of death**.

16. Why is fear such an effective weapon against people?

17. What happens when fear begins making our decisions?

4. NOW WALK IN YOUR AUTHORITY

The sermon doesn't stop with the enemy's defeat. It moves to the believer's responsibility.

Luke 10:18–19

Jesus tells His disciples that He has given them authority over the power of the enemy.

This raises an important question:

If Jesus gave us authority, are we actually using it?

18. What does exercising spiritual authority look like in everyday life?

19. What is the difference between spiritual authority and simply being loud, aggressive, or emotional?

20. Why must our authority be based upon Jesus rather than upon how powerful we feel?

21. Where are Christians sometimes “tiptoeing” around an enemy Jesus has told them to resist?

Romans 16:20

The sermon gives us another powerful picture:

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

Notice the combination:

God's power.

Your feet.

22. What do you think that picture communicates about our relationship with God in spiritual victory?

5. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

The sermon uses Peter walking on the water as an illustration of what happens when circumstances become bigger in our sight than Jesus.

Bonus Scripture — Matthew 14:28–31

Peter was walking on what should have been impossible.

But then he saw the wind.

The storm was there when Peter stepped out of the boat.

The difference was **where his attention was focused**.

Discuss

23. What changed when Peter shifted his attention from Jesus to the storm?

24. What are some “waves” that easily capture our attention today?

25. Can circumstances be real without being the final authority in our lives? Explain.

And this question from the sermon is worth discussing together:

Do you have peace before the breakthrough—or only after the problem disappears?

26. What would it look like to have peace while the storm is still happening?

6. HEAD KNOWLEDGE OR HEART REVELATION?

The sermon closes with an important distinction.

We can memorize Scriptures about victory and authority without actually living from them.

There is a difference between saying:

“I know Luke 10:19.”

and living like you believe Luke 10:19.

Discuss

27. What's the difference between knowing Scripture intellectually and having that truth established in your heart?

28. How does biblical truth move from our head into the way we actually live?

29. Have you ever known a Scripture for years and then suddenly had it become real to you? What changed?

30. After hearing this sermon, what is one area where you believe God is challenging you to stop living in fear and begin walking in faith?

Closing Question

Let's finish with the central question of the entire discussion:

If we truly believed that Jesus has already defeated the enemy, what would change about the way we live this week?

Sermon Structure Outline

I. The Core Thesis: Victory over Fear

The primary message emphasizes that the devil is a defeated foe. Believers often live in unnecessary fear, but the scriptural reality is that the battle was won by the Lord, and the victory belongs to the believer. As noted, the devil is like a roaring lion whose teeth have been removed: he can only "gum" those who do not realize his lack of authority.

II. The Timeline of Defeat

- The Origin: Lucifer's pride and fall were rooted in "I" statements, exalting himself above God (Isaiah 14).
- The Prophecy: In the Garden of Eden, the "seed of the woman" was promised to deliver a fatal blow to the serpent's head (Genesis 3).
- The Accomplishment: At the Cross, Jesus destroyed the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), blotted out legal ordinances against humanity, and made a "public show" of the enemy, stripping him of his power (Colossians 2).
- The Finality: The devil's future is sealed in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20).

III. The Believer's Mandate: Walking it Out

Victory is not passive; it must be walked out by faith. Authority has been delegated to believers to "tread on serpents and scorpions" (Luke 10:19). This requires keeping one's eyes on Jesus rather than sinking into the "circumstances" of the world, much like Peter on the water.

IV. Conclusion and Call to Action

The sermon concludes with an invitation to salvation, emphasizing that the "victorious life" requires the Holy Spirit within. The ultimate goal is to move from "head knowledge" to a heart-prepared witness that spreads the gospel globally.

Key Scripture References

- Genesis 3:14–15: The cursing of the serpent and the promise of the seed who would bruise his head.
- Isaiah 14:12–17: The fall of Lucifer and the exposure of his prideful intentions.
- Ezekiel 28:14: Recognition of the enemy's former position as an anointed cherub.
- 1 John 3:8: The declaration that the Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil.
- Colossians 2:13–15: The spiritual "quickenings" of believers and the legal disarming of principalities and powers at the cross.
- Hebrews 2:14–15: The destruction of the one who held the power of death to deliver those in bondage.
- Luke 10:18–19: The delegation of power to believers to tread over all the power of the enemy.
- Romans 16:20: The promise that the God of peace shall bruise Satan under the believer's feet shortly.
- Revelation 20:10–15: The final judgment of the devil and the opening of the Book of Life.

Audience Reflection Section

- Living Below Your Means: Are you currently operating in the full authority granted to you by Christ, or are you "tiptoeing" around the enemy in fear?
- The Focus of Your Sight: When facing a "storm," are your eyes on the victory already won, or are you focused on the waves of the circumstance?
- Boldness at the Gate: Do you possess peace before the breakthrough occurs, or only after the obstacle has been removed?
- Heart vs. Head: Is your faith based on a list of memorized scriptures, or does it flow from a heart that has been transformed by the anointing?

Actionable Takeaways

- Exercise Spiritual Authority: Apply Luke 10:19 daily. When facing opposition, consciously "tread" upon it by speaking the Word rather than yielding to fear or cooperation with the enemy.
- Maintain Boldness in the Marketplace: Adopt the "boldness of a lion." Look for opportunities this week to share the light of the gospel through simple acts like paying for a neighbor's groceries or gas.
- Prepare the Heart: Focus less on having a "perfect message" and more on a heart prepared for the Holy Spirit to use. Authentic witness flows from a heart that people can recognize as real.
- Keep Going: If you are "going through hell," do not stop or "rent a hotel." Continue moving forward with the assurance that the enemy is placed under your feet "shortly" (Romans 16:20).