

THE MIGHT OF THE LIGHT

The Subtly of Satan

I. Genesis 3:1-Satan's attack is subtle

- A. Satan's attack is not obvious, it's not direct, it's not forthright and out in the open and public and unconcealed
 - 1. **Subtle**-Sly, crafty, shrewd, delicate, fine, deceitful; Clever at attaining one's ends by indirect and often deceptive means
 - a. The opposite of subtle is forthright, noisy, hard, open, harsh, honest, ignorant, stupid, obvious, public, unconcealed, direct, frank
 - 2. **He doesn't come in beating down your door screaming hey I'm the devil and I'm here to destroy your life**
- B. John 10:1-5-The thief doesn't come in the front door, why? Because his attack is not obvious and public and direct, it's delicate and deceitful
 - 1. **Thief**-A name transferred to false teachers who do not care to instruct men, but abuse their confidence for their own gain
 - a. When you're false and you know your false you want to look real to the people
 - 2. **Robber**-To steal by **stealth**-intended to not attract attention, steal in quiet or secret to go unnoticed
 - a. If he does it in quiet or in secret and it goes unnoticed, then he can keep doing it
 - b. The enemy has robbed people of their faith and they don't even know it; they're believing wrong and not believing God and think they are and think they have great faith and they're great faith people
 - 3. You have somebody who comes in not using the front door so that it's not obvious, direct, and forthright; He's coming in to lead you astray, to get you to believe wrong (abuse their confidence), so that he can steal from you in secrete, in quiet, going unnoticed
 - 4. This whole thing is about leading the sheep
 - a. What does the stranger need? He needs the sheep to follow him
 - 1) Do you notice it doesn't say that thief climbs in some other way and murders all the sheep in a massacre? It's not a power struggle, and the enemy is not overriding people's wills
 - 2) John 10:10-The thief is going to steal, kill, and destroy by being false and getting you to believe it
 - b. Deceived is to be led astray and away from the truth – NOT FORCED ASTRAY
 - 1) Jesus is going to lead you into the truth and the truth is going to make you free-John 8:38, 16:13
 - 2) The stranger wants to lead them astray into lies and bondage

C. Matthew 7:15-If a wolf doesn't dress like a sheep it will be hard for him to get close to you and you get you to put down your guard; The enemy doesn't approach you like a wolf howling with fury in his eyes; he approaches you like and innocent harmless sheep

1. **False prophets**-One who acting the part of a divinely inspired prophet; It also means lying and deceitful
 - a. *GNT-They come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves.*
 - b. *TLB-Who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are wolves and will tear you apart*
 - c. *NIRV-They come to you pretending to be sheep. But on the inside they are hungry wolves*
2. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15-Satan transforms into an angel of light
 - a. *EXB-Satan changes himself to look like [disguises himself as; masquerades as] an angel of light [trying to fool people into thinking he is from God who is pure light]*
 - b. *CEV-Satan tries to make himself look like an angel of light*
 - c. *MSG-Satan does it all the time, dressing himself up as a beautiful angel of light*
3. He didn't come to her as Lucifer, the one who had been kicked out of Heaven for trying to exalt himself above God
 - a. **He chose to speak through the most subtle means possible (He wasn't looking for scary he was looking for subtle)**

II. Genesis 3:1-6, 1 Timothy 2:14-The enemy wants his attack to be so subtle on your life that you don't even recognize that it's him

- A. She's not recognizing this serpent as her enemy and these words as arrows shot to deceive and destroy; she doesn't see the end
1. She's not picking up on what's happening here in verse 1 and you can tell because she's reasoning with him
 - a. She tries to tell the serpent what God said and he already knew what God said
 2. There's something in the undertones of what he's saying and she's not picking up on what he's trying to do to her
 - a. **The words sound innocent, but in the undertones of what he is saying is darkness and death**
 - b. **Ex: You deserve better; I wonder why that hasn't happened yet; He shouldn't treat you like that**
 3. The enemy said, "Did God say that you shall not of every tree of the Garden?"
 - a. That's not what God said, but it's true; It's true they can't eat of every tree, but it's not true that that's what God said – THIS IS SUBLTE

- b. The insinuation is that God is lying to you because he's holding out on you and doesn't want you to have to be like him and walk in all the benefits that would come from eating of that tree; Now he didn't come right out and say that, but that's what he's getting at
 - c. He's subtly working this way of thinking into their thought pattern that; There's something God doesn't want you to have;
 - 4. He said the exact opposite of what God said, "You won't die if you eat of it."
 - a. When you begin to buy into his deception his words will become more direct
 - 5. **You need to ask yourself two questions to renew your mind in this area when a negative thought comes: What is it? Where did it come from?**
 - a. **People have yielded to negative thoughts so much that many times they don't even recognize when they come**
- B. Eve got in trouble and yielded to deception because when he fired a dart, she didn't put up her shield
 - 1. **Every time the enemy fires a dart and you don't resist it you are getting closer and closer to complete deception**
 - a. **What you didn't resist you yielded to – There's no middle ground**
 - b. **When an arrow is fired at you, it either hits you or it doesn't – There's no middle ground**
 - c. **2 Corinthians 10:5, Ephesians 6:16-Every very dart needs to be quenched every thought needs to be cast down**
 - 2. Having and knowing the truth she is now deceived (She knows what God said and she just told him what said and yet she was deceived)
 - a. How does that happen? When you have the light and the truth, but don't war with it against the lies of the devil you are on way to being deceived and believing something else that's not true
 - 3. **Rather than firing back she's considering what he's saying, she's rolling it over in her mind (Saw-See, Look at, Consider, Gaze at)**
- C. She is deceived and believing wrong (They're eating of the tree because she believes it's going to help them)
 - 1. She saw that it was good for food
 - a. Is it good for food? NO! – Anything you eat that's going to kill you the same day is not good for food
 - b. She is not seeing right and she is deceived and believing a lie
 - c. She believes that if they eat of this tree they are going to be wise; She believes wrong and the enemy has gotten her to believe a lie
 - 2. **She has lost her faith**

III. Matthew 4-The way Satan attacked Jesus is the way he will attack you and it's not at all spectacular

- A. Tempter-Enticement of sin, to test one craftily – Satan is subtle

1. 3-Jesus hasn't eaten in 40 days; Why not tempt Jesus to turn the rocks into an animal or into a tree? Why food?
 2. 6-It is true that it was written, "God will give his angels charge over you..." but what he said was not truth
 3. 3,6-"If you are the son of God," The insinuation is maybe you're not so if you could do this in the natural it would prove that you are
 - a. He doesn't say that Jesus is not; he just says **IF** you are
 4. 8-10-This is what Jesus came for, this is the desire of Jesus' heart and it was true that Satan could have given them to him
 - a. The deception here is, this will be good, do it this way Jesus, bow down to me and I'll give it to you
 5. Here's why Jesus wasn't deceived and duped and tricked: Every time Satan fired a dart Jesus put up his shield and swung his sword
 - a. Eve reasoned with the devil and considered what he said; Jesus fought the good fight of faith
- B. The enemy is not overriding people's wills and forcing them to do stuff that they don't want to do, but rather he's trying to get them to believe wrong and not see the truth
1. Satan didn't override Jesus' will and force him to turn these rocks into bread, jump of the temple or bow is knee; This is not a power struggle; he's trying to get Jesus to believe wrong; In the Garden he didn't force Eve to eat the fruit, he got her to believe wrong; it's not a power struggle it's a faith fight
 2. Proverbs 1:10-17-These sinners aren't in a power struggle forcing him to go with them, they're trying to deceive him and get him to believe wrong; He wasn't trying to force the bird into the trap by power, he's trying to deceive the bird and get it to believe wrong
 3. Satan's doesn't catch people by force, but rather by deception
 4. The truth is Jesus is the son of God and whether or not he can turn rocks into bread or jump of the temple and be safe doesn't have anything to do with that truth; For Jesus to believe that he needs to do those things to prove that he is would be for him to believe wrong
- C. Satan's attack never begins spectacularly-Luke 8:27
1. 27-Nobody has to have devils (Ephesians 4:27-Neither give place to the devil (foothold); John 14:30-Jesus said he has nothing in me)
 - a. 30-Who allowed the devils to enter into him? Who gave these devils permission to enter into him? He did-John 14:30, Ephesians 4:27
 - 1) The devil wasn't entering into everybody like this because everybody hadn't yielded to him the way that this man had-1Peter5:7-8
 2. 29-The devils driving because he let the devil drive

- a. The enemy is not just showing up and possessing people against their will and without their consent
- b. 29-People will look at this and ooh and ah about how spectacular it is, but what they don't release is that it started with an arrow of deception fired and a man who yielded to it
- 3. 30-Who allowed these devils to enter into him?
 - a. Proverbs 4:23-Guard your heart means you can let in what you want and not let in what you don't want
 - b. The mind is the gateway to the heart; These devils entered in his heart because he gave place to them in his mind
 - c. 35-When he got delivered he was in his right mind and when he was in bondage he was not in his right mind
 - 1) When that demon was oppressing him his mind was unsound, therefore demonic activity of every kind always has to do with the mind
- 4. Even when demonic influence increases it still started on this level of lies and deception
 - a. Words of Satan spoken to the believer and yielded to become thoughts taken
 - b. Thoughts taken continually become strongholds in the mind (it's no longer just a thought you have, it's your WAY of thinking)
 - c. Strongholds in the mind enable that spirit to set up residence and give it authority to inspire everything a person does-Rom8:6,Isaia26:3
 - 1) When you begin to yield to what that spirit says you give that spirit place in your life and you will begin to take on his characteristics

IV. If you're enemy is a deceiver who's weapon is deception then you'd better ben on guard against; in fact deception is the number one thing you should be on guard against (Luke 21:8, Matt24:4, Mark 13:5, Deuteronomy 11:16-We are to take heed that we be not deceived)

- A. You need to ask the enemy this question: What exactly are you trying to get me to believe here?
 - 1. You need to ask yourself this question: What am I believing right now and Is it true?
- B. You need to take the approach that Satan is trying to deceive you all the time; Every day he's trying to get you to believe something that is not true; What is he trying to get me to believe today that's not true?
 - 1. You need to wake up in the morning expecting arrows to be shot at you