Making Disciples

Notes for Session Twenty-one

The Enemy and Spiritual Warfare

Session Goals

1. The disciple will be able to recall one of the verses mentioned in the session that we can use against enemy attacks.
2. The disciple will be able to name one of the enemy's strategies.
3. The disciple will describe how Jesus won the victory when He was tempted.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

Satan's history.

Lucifer was an angel in Heaven, he became proud and wanted honor and glory for himself. Jesus tells His disciples He saw Satan fall from heaven. There were other angels (his followers) cast down with him.

Luke 10:18 When the disciples of Jesus were rejoicing that they could cast out demons, Jesus said: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven."

Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit."

Ezekiel 28:17 "Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor."

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2 Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"

Satan's Schemes

Knowing the devil's strategies shown in the Bible will help us identify his works today. Because we have become part of God's family, Satan is now our enemy too. It is important we know our own weaknesses so that we are aware what parts of our life might be vulnerable to enemy attack.

2 Corinthians 2:11 "Lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices."

- He disguises Himself.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself transforms himself into an Angel of light."

Galatians 1:8 "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

- He counterfeits.

Matthew 13:38 "The enemy who sowed the weeds was the devil and the tares are the sons of the wicked one."

- He is our adversary.

*1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion,** seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."*

- He is the accuser of the brethren.

*Zechariah 3:1 "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest, standing before the Angel of the Lord, had **Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him**."*

*Revelation 12:10 "The **accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God, day and night."*

- He steals, kills, and destroys.

*John 10:10 "**The thief** comes only to steal, kill and to destroy."*

- He is a murderer, and a liar.

*John 8:44 "Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You are of your father, the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was **a murderer from the beginning** and does not stand in the truth, because **there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it**."*

- He afflicts and oppresses.

Not every illness should be attributed to Satan, but the possibility of him causing sickness is evident in Scripture.

Acts 10:38 "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil."

Luke 13:16 "Jesus said 'So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for 18 years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?'"

- He hinders.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 "Therefore, we wanted to come to you – even I, Paul, time and again – but Satan hindered us."

- He is the tempter.

*Matthew 4:3 "And the **tempter** came and said to Him, if you are the son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

Satan's temptations.

- The Garden of Eden

The beginning of sin by humanity.

Genesis 3:1-13 Satan's temptation of Eve, recall what you can of the story and then find and read the scripture together.

Genesis 3:14 God's judgment on the serpent; *"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because you have done this, you are cursed above all the cattle, and above every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust shall you eat all the days of thy your life."*

- Satan's attack on Job

Although God cast the devil out of Heaven when He and his angels rebelled against God it seems he still had access to God as shown in this passage. Read it together.

Job 1:1 "In the land of Uz, there lived a man whose name was Job. The man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil." The account continues to Job 2:10. Job lost everything he had at the hand of Satan, he sought to prove to God that Job would not be faithful to God if he suffered loss. Job 2:10 says; *"In all this Job did not sin in what he said."* He remained faithful to God.

- The Temptation of Jesus

After Jesus was baptized, before he began His ministry the Holy Spirit led Him out into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. This is not the only time He was tempted but this is an intensive time that demonstrates to us how to deal with temptation.

1 John 2:15-16 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the

world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever."

Matthew 4:3-4 shows us the first temptation, the lust of the flesh. *"Now when the tempter came to him, he said, 'if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But he answered and said, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* Jesus was hungry but He did not create food for Himself.

The second temptation, *Matthew 4:5-7 "Then the devil took him up into the holy city, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "if you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'It is written you shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"* The enemy was saying show me your power, but He refused as it would have come from pride.

The third temptation, *Matthew 4:8-11 "Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said to him, 'All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.' And then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan. For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Then the devil left him."* Jesus resisted the temptations by quoting scriptures that were the truth when the enemy tempted him with half-truths.

- Satan's attack on Peter

Satan wanted to shake Peter so he would fall. He did sin but repented after denying Jesus three times, those incidents follow this scripture in the Bible.

Luke 22:31-32 "And the Lord said, 'Simon Simon! Indeed, Satan had asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when, when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.'"

Spiritual Warfare

- Sometimes it may seem like we are fighting against other Christians, but the Bible tells us our struggle is not against flesh and blood. Satan will plant

thoughts and suspicions and attempt to divide us. If those thoughts result in anger, *Ephesians 4:26-27 says, "Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil."*

According to *Ephesians 6:12 "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this Dark World, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

- Sometimes we will experience negative ideas about ourselves (like a sense that we have failed). Your adversary, the devil is trying to cause you to give up.

Matthew 5:25 says *"Agree with your adversary quickly while you are on your way with him,"* If your enemy tells you that you have failed, agree if there is a grain of truth. Ask and receive forgiveness from the Lord, rely on His spirit within you to grant you success in what he gives you to do.

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

- In response to the enemy's attacks, we should focus on following Christ and not turn our focus to our enemy. We have the victory by obeying His commands and resisting the devil. We do not rebuke the devil, we will be victorious resisting him, and asking the Lord to rebuke him.

Jude 1:9 "But even the Archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander, but said 'the Lord rebuke you.'"

God's Promises are our sword of the Spirit.

James 4:7 "Resist this the devil, and he will flee from you."

I Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

His Limitations

- As above God does not allow Satan to tempt us beyond what we are able.

1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except. Such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

- Satan in the case of Job and Peter had to get God's permission to tempt them. Jesus was also led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.

Job 1:12 "The Lord said to Satan, "Very well then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man, himself do not lay a finger."

Luke 22:31 "And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan had asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat."

Matthew 4:1 "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."

- He and his demons cannot be everywhere at once. In the account of Job's temptation God asked him where he had been.

Job1:7 "And the Lord said to Satan from where do you come?"

- Daniel told the king that none of these people who consulted their own thoughts or demons could reveal mysteries of his dreams. Satan's knowledge is limited.

Daniel 2:27-28 "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he is asked about but there is God in heaven who reveals mysteries."

- Satan was defeated by Jesus on the cross. As a result, we can have the victories.

Colossians 2:15 "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross."

His future

- The Bible says clearly that eternal torment is the future for Satan and his angels.

Revelation 12:9 "The Great Dragon was hurled down-that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the Earth and his angels with him."

Revelation 20:10 "The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will also say to those on his left, 'Depart from me accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;"

2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;"

Jude 1:6 "And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,"

- The enemy knows his future.

Matthew 8:29 "And they cried out. What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Revelation 12:12 says "Satan is full of fury because his time is short."

Action Steps

- This week when a negative attitude or thought comes to mind, do not ignore it but resist it and use one of God's promises to change your thinking. Write down your experience and share it next week.

- If you have a difficulty with another person this week deal with it and resist Satan if he has been at the root of it. Share your experience with us next week.