

The War of Words

11 - The Art of Rest
Church on the Park | Sunday, 19 OCT 2014

Text: Revelation 12:11

Theme: There is a tactic that the enemy has been using since the beginning, but you can overcome it.

Intro: There's nothing like false accusations to steal our peace and rest in God. False accusations can fill us with a guilt that God never intended and cause us to try to prove our righteousness rather than rest in Christ's righteousness.

Today, we will look at how satan operates and how we can overcome him. I don't like talking about satan but it's critical that we know three things for a victorious life: 1) Our God, 2) Ourselves, 3) Our Enemy.

First, does anyone know what satan means? It means "**adversary**." The name means one who resists, opposes and bears a grudge against another. It also implies one who **accuses**.

1) Just like God created the world through words, satan wants to destroy the world through words (Gen 1:3-5, Gen. 3:1-5).

- Satan will never succeed in destroying the world, but he will **try** hard. Though, he can **destroy** your life if you **listen** to him.
- Let's see how satan **operated** in the **beginning**. How he worked in the beginning is how he still works **today** (Gen 3:1-5).
 - Notice: **It's a war of words**.
 - "Did God say?"
 - What's satan's **tactic**? To **falsely accuse** God.
 - Even if we don't **fully believe** him, he just wants to plant a small **seed** in our minds. He only wants to get us to doubt **a little** so that we would at least **experiment** against God.
 - Satan wants to **skew** your view of God and he does it through **false accusations**.
 - Not only does he want to skew your view of God, but he wants to **skew** your view of **yourself** and **others**.
 - Guess how he does that?
 - **Examples** of false accusation: **Job 1-2, Ezra 4, Daniel 6**
 - In **Job**, satan accuses Job before God.
 - He only serves you because you bless him and protect him. It's not true love, it's for some benefit.
 - He only holds his integrity because his health is good. Strike his health, and he will curse you.
 - In **Ezra**, Israel's enemies used false accusation to get them to stop rebuilding the temple. Who did you think inspired these false accusations?
 - How did God **combat** this tactic? Through sending prophets to speak God's Word to them and encourage them (**Ezra 5:1-2**).
 - God's Word **swallows** up satan's word.

- In **Daniel**, Daniel's opponents are jealous of him and falsely accuse him to get him out of office. Yet, Daniel would not bow to their idol and God protected him from the lions. (Dan. 6)
- How was **Jesus** sent to the cross? (Matt. 27:12) It was through false accusations
- **Rev. 12:7-10** - The last book of the Bible **sums up Satan's activity** by telling us that he is an accuser of the brothers.

2) It's through listening to God's word, cherishing it and letting it work in you that you overcome false accusations (Rev. 12:11)

- Remember, it's a **war of words**. God's word is like **fire** that burns up the enemies word.
- Satan's words **tear** you down; God's words **build** you up.
- Satan's words **destroy**; God's words bring **life**.
- In **Psalm 119** the psalmist constantly faces opposition and persecution. His solution is hanging on to and loving God's Word (see my translation & notes).
 - It's not what **people think** of you that counts, it is what **God thinks** and says about you.
 - Like I said last week, you're at the **top of the Father's list**
- "They **overcame** him...by the **word** of their testimony."
- The **word of your testimony** is simply God's word **living** and **working** in you. It's how God's word has **transformed** your life.
- **Speaking** that over yourself and **sharing** it with the world enables you to overcome.
- "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)
- Look at **Job's testimony**. Look at **Daniel's testimony**. They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from **death**. When you are trusting God, you are not **afraid** to die. We see that ultimately with **Jesus**.

3) The enemy gains power over us through ignorance, especially ignorance of the power of the blood (Rev. 12:11).

- "They overcame by the **blood** of the lamb..."
 - It was a **lamb** that overcame Satan's **roar** of a **lion**
- Satan gains power over us through **ignorance** (Hos. 4:6). There are three areas that the enemy wants us to be ignorant of: 1) Our identity 2) Our authority 3) Our God. In regards to our **identity** he wants to steal it so that we do not know in our hearts that we are children of God. In regards to **authority** he does not want us to use it, otherwise we will render him powerless. In regards to **God**, he wants us to question his goodness. He wants us to think that what he does is what God does.
- The **blood** of Jesus, his cross, **proves** to us the **goodness** of God towards us
- Jesus shed his blood to **pay the price** for your sins, each and every one.
- The **blood cries** before God's throne that you are **forgiven** and **clean**. Therefore, it is the blood that **cast Satan** from ever going to the throne room again, like he did in the days of Job (cf. ***Isa 54:17**).
- God declares you **righteous** because of Christ's work on the cross. It's a righteousness that is not based on your efforts or works, but based on Christ's righteousness and works. It's Christ's righteousness given to you as a gift (Rom. 3:21-26).
- The blood makes us new and righteous. It also gives us **power** and **authority** over the enemy (Luke 10:17-20).
- "When I survey the wondrous cross..."

Conclusion:

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

There is war of words that the enemy has launched to destroy people. But God's word always triumphs. Let God's word work in your heart giving you a testimony and trust in the blood of Jesus, and you will overcome the enemy of your souls.

END NOTES

Let's look at how the Old Covenant dealt with false accusations.

Deu. 19:15-21 - The law regarding false accusations

Ezra 4 - False accusation causes the building of the temple to stop

How the David and the Psalm writers dealt with false accusation. (Ps 109:4, 31:20, 35:20)

What Isaiah says about false accusation? Isaiah 54:17

Daniel and accusation: Daniel 6

In old times, if someone brought a false accusation they may face death and definitely will face some severe action against them. But today, anyone can bring anyone else to court. The prosecutor has no consequence to bringing a false accusation. If the prosecutor is wrong they get told that the one they are fighting against is not guilty. At best, the not guilty party can counter sue for slander and libel.

Satan's work of accusation: Zechariah and Job and Revelation

Genesis 3 - Satan's original tactic was to accuse God.

Satan accuses God, accuses you, accuses others to you, accuses leaders.

His desire is to get us not to trust God. His desire is to get rid of God's servants. His desire is to immobilize you with accusation. His desire is to stop the work of God and the temple being rebuilt.

One of the main weapons in Satan's arsenal to create confusion and stop God's work is accusation.

Look at how he treats Jesus in the wilderness

Matthew 27:12 - While Jesus was being accused, he remained silent (cf. Mark 15:3)

Matthew 5:11-12

Revelation 12 -