

Satan's Great Weapons

2 Cor 2:10-11

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Introduction:

Events which have transpired in recent months, weeks and days have brought my thoughts again to the wiles and works of the devil. We may unwittingly give the devil a foothold in our lives by our responses in situations and events. Satan can use so many things to his advantage ... and will. So, for a little while let me think with you of some of Satan's great weapons.

I. Affluence!

A. ...take your ease... - Lk 12:15-21

Luke 12:15-21 - Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

1. Affluence is not a sin! but Satan can use it so effectively
2. Here is a man who is affluent ... but who is a spiritual pauper
3. He has become comfortable, complacent, thoughtless in His prosperity

B. It's all mine - Isa 39:2

Isaiah 39:2 - Hezekiah was pleased, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and his whole armory and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

1. Can be lulled into a sense of security - Amos 6:3-4

Amos 6:3-4 - Do you put off the day of calamity, And would you bring near the seat of violence? 4 Those who recline on beds of ivory And sprawl on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall,

2. Two problems of affluence: pride, misplaced trust
3. So, affluence: blessing or curse? - 1 Tim 6:9, 17-19

1 Timothy 6:9 - But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

II. Procrastination!

A. ...when I find time... - Acts 24:24-27

Acts 24:24-27 - But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present,

and when I find time I will summon you." At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and converse with him. But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

1. Satan's lie: you've got lots of time
2. Suppose, though, you really don't have that time? how can you be sure?
3. Back to Lk 12:19-20

Luke 12:19-20 - 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

- a. ...many years...
- b. How wrong he was?

B. Where our eternal destiny is involved

1. Waiting a while is a serious mistake
2. It is exactly what Satan wants you to do
3. Look at 2 Cor 6:2

2 Corinthians 6:2 - for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" --

III. *Discouragement!*

A. ...take my life... - 1 Ki 19:1-4

1 Kings 19:1-4 - Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

1. Can an Elijah be that discouraged? yes!!
2. What Satan could not do in a frontal attack, he was almost able to do with discouragement
3. A great servant on the brink

B. We may find ourselves saying ...

1. What's the use?
 - a. And Satan rubs his hands with glee
 - b. He has us on the ropes
2. Our faith has been too much in ourselves
3. Compare Psa 73:2,3,17,28 from discouragement, to worship, to trust in God!

Psalms 73:2-3 - But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:17 - Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

Psalms 73:28 - But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works.

IV. *Devastation - Disaster!*

A. ...but we were hoping... - Lk 24:21

Luke 24:21 - "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

1. Hopes, dreams, expectations crushed

2. Their world had suffered great shock
- B. What goes through our minds?
 1. Why me, Lord?
 2. Where is the sense, meaning in this?
 3. If God is so loving, why did He permit such a thing?
 4. Do you think Satan may be at the root of such questions? questions which bring some degree of doubt, distrust?
 5. At the very time we should be leaning on and trusting God, thoughts and questions of this sort are slipping between us and God!
- C. A fact or two for consideration ...
 1. Sin, with all its ugliness, is in the world
 2. God elected to give mankind free moral agency - the same freedom which may choose inhuman behavior may also choose to glorify God in righteousness
 3. Our hope is the rest and peace of heaven - but this life will have its tribulation - Mk 10:30

Mark 10:30 - but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

Conclusion:

Some of Satan's strongest weapons are what we might tend to consider real life. The answer to them is a faith that is well maintained in worship and devotion (Isaiah 26:3).

Isaiah 26:3 - "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You."

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Adapted by Jack Critchfield