

Defeating Satan's Devices – Part 1

Introduction: A few Monday's ago, I took my four older children on a field trip to the air-force museum just outside of Dayton, OH. Walking through the display, I learned several things previously unknown to me. During the American Civil War in the early 1860s, both the Union and the Confederacy were attempting to use lighter than air balloons to do reconnaissance. If you look at military history and the history of warfare and combat, there is *far* more to the outcomes of battles than the battles themselves. The ways in which armies communicate, their movements, their supply-lines – i.e. their strategies leading up to the actual fighting are just as important as the fighting itself.

This sermon series will be in a way a form of *reconnaissance* for battle against Satan's "devices."

⇒ Noema – "design, purpose, intention of an evil nature"

Reconnaissance is the military term for exploring beyond the area occupied by friendly forces to gain information about enemy forces or features of the environment.

Satan – Your Adversary. Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them."

⇒ *Hasatan* – Hebrew word – "The Adversary" – "**The name of the super-human adversary of God**"

⇒ **1 Peter 5:7-8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

- **Devour: katapino** – "to destroy completely in the figure of one devouring or swallowing something."
- **Satan's** passion in his existence is the destruction of human beings. **Why?** Listen to Jesus' description from John 8:44, "... 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."
- **Human beings are of particular interest to Satan – Murder is a crime that can only be committed against human beings who are in the image of God.** And Jesus described Satan as a *murderer*. **How is he a murderer?**

Application: When God in the garden gave the commandment to Adam and Eve, he said: **Genesis 2:16-17** "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; [17] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**'"

- **Because DEATH was the penalty, Satan's mission became very simple: Kill Adam and Eve.** They represented the high-water mark of God's creative genius. God, whose glory, power, and position Lucifer envied with such unbounded and blinding hatred.
- **Satan knows he could never kill God, but man is a different being altogether – and because man bears the image of God, man has therefore become Satan's special interest.**

Paul, of course, knew this well. And thus he spoke of Satan's "devices" or "schemes." What do Satan's devices or schemes have as their goal? Your and my deaths – Satan desires our deaths – both physical and spiritual – and our misery here and now.

"We are not ignorant of his devices" – Application: It is therefore a good exercise to study this topic and consider it Biblically – for we ourselves do not want to be "ignorant of Satan's devices either."

A disclaimer – the difficulty of disentangling direct attacks of Satan against us from the wickedness of our own sinful natures. Everyone I’ve ever read on this topic has admitted that this is nearly impossible to do.

The goal of this study – to survey the whole Bible and look carefully at ways in which Satan works to entice people to sin, to rebel against God, to leave the faith, to hate other people, to give up the fight against sin, and etc. **We want to be “in the know” not “ignorant” of Satan’s “devices,” “tricks,” and “schemes.”**

The height of foolishness – to rush into battle without understanding your enemy and his tactics.

⇒ **Illustration: Luke 14:31** [31] Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

Illustration: What was it about Napoleon, Robert E. Lee, Hannibal, and Alexander the Great that made them so successful in battle? ***Strategy and understanding their opponent’s strategy.***

Illustration 2: Hannibal – “the thinking man’s general” – Cannae, where 43,000 Carthaginians and mercenaries defeated and nearly wiped out entirely over 86,000 Roman troops. Hannibal *knew* his enemy – he knew how the Romans would attack, how they would advance, what their strengths and weaknesses were, what Roman commander’s tendencies were, how maneuverable they were, and how battle ready their cavalry was. And thus, he pulled off a massive defeat *simply by outthinking his opposition.*

Thomas Brooks – “Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices” – **Format:**

1. I will give you “devices”
2. Followed by a few biblical examples,
3. And then a handful of “remedies” against those specific devices.

This is Brooks approach. I will be borrowing some from Brooks and some will be from my own studies.

Device 1: Satan puts forth bait in order to hide the hook. He hides the sin under an attractive bait. Satan puts the best face on his product. He emphasizes the pleasure and ignores the consequences to make us bite.

⇒ **Illustration:** I would never take a fishhook into my mouth and let you pull it into my cheek. But if someone hid a fishhook inside of 2 scoops of toffee-chip ice-cream from Graeters, I’d end up with a fishhook in my mouth.

⇒ **Application:** Satan is not a fool. Remember Scripture’s first description of him in Genesis 3:1: “Now the serpent was **more cunning** than any beast of the field...” אַרְוֹם (*aroom*) which means “crafty, sensible, shrewd.” Satan does not knock on the door and say, “Hi, I’m the prince of darkness and I’m here to ruin your life and murder you.” **No, he’s a master of subtlety and deception.**

Example 1: The obvious – the Fall of Genesis 3

⇒ Read V1-5 – **Here is the bait:** He pushes the beauty of the fruit, its tastes, and the wisdom to be gained.

- ⇒ **Notice how the hook is hidden under the positives – Notice what Satan leaves out:** he makes no mention of the death that will follow from disobedience. Satan doesn't mention the curse, the thorns and thistles, the multiplied sorrows in birth, alienation in relationships, death, disease, starvation, suffering, oppression, and expulsion from the garden. He baited this hook very well.

Example 2: The immoral woman of Proverbs 7:16-27

- ⇒ **Proverbs 7:16-27** [16] I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen. [17] I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. [18] Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love. [19] For my husband *is* not at home; He has gone on a long journey; [20] He has taken a bag of money with him, *And* will come home on the appointed day." [21] With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. [22] Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, [23] Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it *would cost* his life. [24] Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: [25] Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; [26] For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong *men*. [27] Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.
- ⇒ **Here is the bait *hiding* the hook:** v16-20
- ⇒ **Here is the hook:** he becomes an ox to the slaughter / a fool to the stocks / a bird to the snare / an arrow will strike his liver / her house is the way to hell. BUT, SHE DOES TELL THE TRUTH – JUST HALF OF IT.

Satan's device (review): He emphasizes the pleasure of sin, the probability of getting away with it, etc. But he fails to mention the bad conscience, the broken family, the ruined life, the broken finances, the destroyed marriage. He hides the hook very carefully with a very **attractive** disguise.

Remedy 1: Keep away from sin and do not play with the bait Satan holds forth.

Romans 12:9 "... Abhor what is evil."

- ⇒ If lust is a problem for you, and magazines or pictures you see at the malls are the bait that are used which constantly make you fall – *stop going to malls*.
- ⇒ **Illustration:** I heard a pastor tell the story of a young man who was struggling with watching inappropriate movies, and this young man said, "every time I walk past that theater, it's like I'm being reeled in," to which the pastor replied, "then take a path home that *doesn't include walking down that street*."
- ⇒ **Application:** If you struggle with wasting time on the internet or on video games – get rid of both.
- ⇒ **Application 2:** If you consistently struggle with spending money on things you cannot afford – throw away the catalogs that come in the mail, put filters on your email that block advertisement emails from companies that you buy from frequently.
- ⇒ **Application 3:** We provoke God if we follow Jesus' teaching on prayer in which He taught us to ask of our heavenly Father "lead us not into temptation" when we spend our lives walking right into it.
- ⇒ **Remember, Satan is "aroom" – "crafty, subtle, shrewd" – he's waiting for you to take just enough of that hook... he's like a master fisherman.**

⇒ **Illustration:** The first time I went blue-gill fishing with my dad, every time that bobber moved I yanked it right out of the water and had no fish on it. But the more you do it, the more you learn to discern the blue-gill just playing with the bait and it actually *taking* the bait. And then you get better at catching them. ***Satan is 1,000 times better at catching, killing, gutting, cleaning, frying, and eating sinners than you and me will ever be at catching blue-gill.***

Consider two men tempted – both had the baited hook put before them:

1. Joseph –

Genesis 39:7-12 [7] And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." [8] But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. [9] *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" [10] So it was, as she spoke to Joseph **day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.** [11] But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house *was* inside, [12] that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, **and fled and ran outside.**

⇒ Consider how hard Joseph's life had been – betrayed by his own brothers and a life of slavery in Egypt amid utter paganism. And yet, he will not even allow himself a second look at the bait being held before him.

⇒ When pushed – Joseph flees.

2. David –

2 Samuel 11:1-3 [1] It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. [2] Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold. [3] So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

⇒ **What did David do wrong?** He played with the bait.

Conclusion / summary

Satan – Your Adversary – the importance of knowing his devices

Device 1: Satan puts forth bait in order to hide the hook.

Remedy 1: Keep away from sin and do not play with the bait Satan holds forth.

Tonight's benediction is particularly relevant to the topic: Jude 1:24-25 [24] Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, [25] To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.