

“Get Behind Me Satan – Part 3”  
Mark 8:31-33  
(Preached at Trinity, March 28, 2012)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We’ve been looking particularly at our Lord’s fearful words to Peter.  
**Mark 8:33 NAU** - "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
2. Upon hearing the words of our Lord in **Verse 31** Peter must have been filled with shock and dismay.  
**Mark 8:31-32 NAU** - "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> And He was stating the matter plainly."
3. Although Peter correctly identified Jesus as the Christ, at this point he did not have a full understanding of what the purpose and work of Christ would be.  
From Peter’s perspective, Jesus must have surely been mistaken. So he took Jesus aside and firmly corrected Him.
4. Surely Peter had the best of intentions. But Peter failed to realize is he actually being used of Satan to hinder the work of Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew we read an additional statement:  
**Matthew 16:23 NAU** - ""Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.""  
σκάνδαλον – ESV: “hindrance” KJV: “offense”
5. Last time I began to direct your attention to the great danger of our spiritual warfare. Satan is our arch enemy.
  - A. Peter described him as a fierce lion  
**1 Peter 5:8 NAU** - " Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
  - B. Paul declared that in terms of our spiritual battle, our war is not ultimately against flesh and blood, that is, with other people. Paul says our battle is with Satan.  
**Ephesians 6:10-12 NAU**- "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*."
6. In **Verse 33** Jesus said:  
"for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
  - A. Satan is the force behind this world’s values. There is a mindset of lost humanity and Satan is the blinding power keeping them from understanding the truth. Paul spoke of his blinding influence

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NAU** - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

- B. Lost humanity is reflecting Satanic values  
Peter's response was characteristic of unregenerate humanity.

I. How does Satan work against us?

A. We are in a spiritual war

1. There are spiritual realities that are difficult to explain  
The Bible tells us that Satan is attacking us  
He is shooting fiery spiritual arrows at us  
He is coming against us with schemes and deceits
2. This is one of the purposes of pastors—to protect the church from the lying schemes of Satan.  
**Ephesians 4:14 NAU** - "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming"
3. All of this is taking place in the level of our mind.  
We have to be careful about separating our soul or spirit from our mind.
  - a. We are filling our minds with truth. Our minds are being renewed in truth.  
**Romans 12:2 NAU** - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."
  - b. It is at the level of the mind that Satan attacks. He brings thoughts to our mind.  
Calvin – "Truth (Satan) assails with lies, light he obscures with darkness. The minds of men he involves with error; he stirs up hatred, inflames strife and war, and all in order that he may overthrow the kingdom of God, and drown men in eternal perdition with himself."
4. This is the battle Peter was struggling with – and at this point he was completely unaware of it.

B. Satan is a master of deception

1. **Ephesians 6:11 NAU**- " Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."
  - a. Schemes - μεθοδεΐα – trickery, deceit
  - b. Our mind is a wonderful gift, makes us different from the animals.  
We have the power of reason – the gift of understanding.
  - c. But our minds become the place of attack by the enemy.
2. Satan has been a deceiver from the beginning  
He inspires false teachings  
**1 Timothy 4:1 NAU**- " But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,"

- C. Satan sows seeds of doubt and discouragement
  1. A thought will unexpectedly enter into our mind—thoughts of doubt, fear, jealousy, envy, hatred, bitterness  
Erroneous ideas.
  2. This is what we are seeing with Peter in this passage. Satan was using him to discourage Christ

## II. Satan can use you to discourage and hinder others - “Get behind me Satan”

- A. Believers who have their discernment weakened can actually be used of the devil – and in their weakened state, not even know it
  1. We can be guilty of using harsh and unkind words, gossip – We can hinder the work of the kingdom  
Jesus was telling Peter that he was actually being used to make His work more difficult.  
**Matthew 16:23 NAS-** "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
    - a. Peter was being a stumbling block (σκάνδαλον)
    - b. Satan is involved in most church problems
    - c. We can hold grudges and bitterness
  2. Satan turns our thoughts towards ourselves rather than to God
    1. We become puffed up with pride. Satan is a master of stirring up our pride.  
**James 4:6-7 KJV** - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
      - a. The problem with pride is we always think we’re right
      - b. Is there ever a time in your whole life that you ever considered that you were being used as a tool of Satan?
      - c. It is far more likely you’ve thought other people were being used.
    2. We can cause strife with one another and in the church and even think we are right.  
Have you ever held a grudge? Have you ever been envious or jealous of someone?  
**Ephesians 4:26-27 NAS** - "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil an opportunity."
    3. He can make us so unhappy that we will leave our church – and we will be completely unaware that Satan is the source – and we will feel completely right and justified.
- C. In such a state we are completely blind to the harm we are doing.
  1. Jesus tells Peter: “for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
  2. Jesus was telling Peter that he had a carnal earthly mind. But from Peter’s perspective it all seemed so right. Right enough to pull Jesus to the side and rebuke Him.

Conclusion:

1. How do we protect ourselves from these attacks of Satan?
  - A. We must continually pray for and seek humility. It is at the place of pride that we are most vulnerable to Satan's attacks  
**James 4:6-7 NAS** - "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. <sup>7</sup> Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."  
**1 Timothy 3:6 NAS** - "*and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."
  - B. While consumed with pride we can cause all manner of damage in our relationships or in our church and never be aware of Satan's involvement in our life.
2. We must stand firm putting on the whole armor of God.  
**Ephesians 6:11-13 NAS** - "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."
3. We must hold fast to God's Word  
 The Word of God swallows Satan with his lies. Satan has never been able to withstand God's Word  
 Jesus used three simple words to defeat Satan in the wilderness temptation:  
**Matthew 4:7 NAU** - "it is written"