

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Overcoming Satanic Deception

SERMON REFERENCE: Genesis 3:1-5

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1649

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Bible calls Satan the “Great Deceiver.”
 - i) The biggest liar in the world is Satan.
- b) Jesus Christ told us about the nature of Satan in John 8:44.
 - i) In this passage, Jesus was speaking to the liars of His day.
 - ii) Jesus Christ told us two things about Satan:
 - (1) He is a murderer.
 - (2) He is a liar.
- c) Satan’s motive is murder; his method is to lie.
 - i) Our enemy (the devil) is a murderer.
 - ii) Satan wants to bring death to purity, love, joy, and happiness.
 - iii) He wants to bring physical, spiritual, and eternal death.
- d) Satan’s chief tool for murder is to destroy by deceiving.
 - i) Jesus said that the devil is the father of all lies.
 - (1) John 8:44
 - (2) He is the master liar.
 - ii) Because he is the master liar, he is very clever.
 - (1) The Bible speaks of the wiles of the devil.
 - (a) Ephesians 6:11
 - (2) The cleverest lies sound the most like the truth.
 - (a) All lies have some truth in them.
 - iii) The devil is very subtle.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - (2) His lies are very subtle.
 - (a) His lies sound like the truth.
 - (b) The lie that is closest to the truth is much more dangerous than a lie that is not close to the truth.
- e) When the devil wants to destroy someone, he begins by deceiving that person.
 - i) He works first on that person’s mind, and then he works on the rest of him.
 - (1) The thought is the father of the deed.
 - (2) The devil had rather have us believe a wrong thing than to do a wrong thing.
 - (a) If he has us believing the wrong thing, then we will be doing the wrong thing.
 - (i) We sow a thought; we reap a deed.
 - (ii) We sow a deed; we reap a habit.
 - (iii) We sow a habit; we reap a character.
 - (iv) It all begins with the thought life.
 - ii) Satan lies in order to get his work done.
 - (1) He is a clever liar.
 - (2) He lies to us because he wants to change our thought processes in order to deceive and destroy us.

- f) Not only is he the father of lies and the cleverest liar, but Satan also lies about the biggest subject: God.
 - i) He wants to deceive us primarily about God.
 - (1) If he can get us to think wrongly about God, then he has us in everything else.
 - ii) A.W. Tozer once said that no religion can rise higher than its concept of God.
 - g) Satan has distorted the idea of God in three basic ways.
 - i) We find this in the threshold of human history, all the way back to the Garden of Eden.
 - (1) Satan is often deceptive.
 - (2) Satan is often duplicitous.
 - (3) But his methods are as old as Eden.
 - ii) Genesis 3:1-5
 - iii) Today's message will look at these three lies from the master liar concerning the very nature and character of God.
 - (1) There are three ways that Satan wants us to think about God.
 - (a) If he can get us to think about God in these three ways, then he has us.
- 2) SATAN WANTS US TO THINK SEVERELY ABOUT GOD (GENESIS 3:1)
- a) Satan does not deny the existence of God or the fact of God.
 - i) That is too self-evident.
 - ii) Satan is too clever for that.
 - b) Satan admits that God is there, but he wants us to think of God as being cruel, harsh, and severe.
 - i) When we think of God, he wants our minds to be filled with negative thoughts.
 - (1) He doesn't want us to think positively about God.
 - (2) He doesn't want us to think kindly about God.
 - (3) He wants us to think severely about God.
 - c) Genesis 3:1
 - i) Satan said to Eve, "Did God make all of this beautiful Garden and then tell you not to touch it?"
 - (1) Of course, that was a lie.
 - (a) There was only one tree that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat, and that was the tree in the midst of the garden.
 - (b) Genesis 2:16
 - (i) The Lord God commanded that they could freely eat from every tree.
 - (2) But Satan told Eve that God had said don't eat of anything.
 - ii) Satan tried to get Eve to think negatively and severely about God.
 - (1) He tried to get her to think that God is so cruel that He has forbidden His creatures any legitimate joy or pleasure.

- (a) Many people think that belonging to the Lord is like taking bad medicine in order to get well.
 - (i) To them, the idea of serving God is painful.
 - (b) They think that the idea of being a Christian is negative and something to be endured.
 - (i) But this is not the correct idea of God.
 - d) God is not a severe and cruel Deity sitting upon a throne hurling down thunder bolts of wrath.
 - i) Imagine the glories of the Garden of Eden and how beautiful it must have been.
 - (1) God made the Garden of Eden.
 - (2) He put Adam and Eve there with a smile on His face.
 - (a) He made it for them.
 - e) God put one tree in the middle of the Garden and told them not to eat of it.
 - i) That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - (1) They needed to know good and evil from what God said about it, not what they said about it or what they experienced.
 - ii) In order for mankind to have a choice, God had to make a choice possible.
 - (1) No man can be loyal unless he can be disloyal.
 - (2) No man can love unless he has an opportunity to dislove.
 - iii) The tree was there as a test.
 - (1) Genesis 2:17
 - (a) This wasn't a threat; this was a warning.
 - (i) Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," He is saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
 - (ii) Every time God says, "Thou shalt," He is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
 - f) God loves us; God is a good God.
 - i) The devil doesn't want us to know that.
 - ii) Psalm 37:4
 - iii) Psalm 84:11
 - iv) If something makes us healthy, happy, holy, or wholesome, then God says to help ourselves.
 - v) 1 Timothy 6:17
- 3) SATAN WANTS US TO THINK SKEPTICALLY ABOUT GOD
 - a) Genesis 3:2-4
 - i) Satan put skepticism in Eve's heart and mind.
 - (1) He made her think that God is cruel, that He withholds things, and that He is a negativist.
 - (2) Satan was saying that if God is not good, then He can't be trusted.
 - b) Anyone who puts a doubt concerning the authorship, accuracy, authority, and acceptability of the Bible is doing the work of the devil.

- i) It is the work of Satan to get people to think skeptically about God's spoken Word.
- ii) God spoke, and what God said is absolutely reliable and authoritative.
- c) Modern man has all kinds of substitutes for the Word of God:
 - i) Relativism
 - (1) This is the idea that truth is always changing.
 - (2) What was true yesterday is not true today.
 - (a) But what is true is always true.
 - (i) If it is new, then it is not true.
 - ii) Subjectivism
 - (1) This is when something "feels" true or "seems" true.
 - (a) But our feelings are not God.
 - (2) What is true for one person may not be true for another.
 - (a) But if it is true, then it is true no matter who it is for.
 - iii) Empiricism
 - (1) Truth is decided by measurement, testing, or obvious evidence.
 - (a) Empirical evidence.
 - (2) The scientist bows down to this standard for truth.
 - iv) Existentialism
 - (1) This is favored by liberal theologians.
 - (a) They don't like to call the Bible the Word of God.
 - (i) That offends them.
 - (ii) They say that it becomes the Word of God when we read it and have a relationship with it.
 - (2) This idea says that truth is what we experience.
 - v) Rationalism
 - (1) This is when the Word of God is paraded past the judgment bar of our minds and logic.
 - (2) "Thus saith the mind of man" is substituted for "Thus saith the Word of God."
 - vi) Pragmatism
 - (1) This doesn't ask, "Is it true?"
 - (2) It asks, "Does it work?"
 - vii) All of these philosophies come from the master liar himself.
 - (1) This kind of thinking leaves people with no fixed standard of truth.
- d) Americans used to live by the Word of God and run the government by the Constitution that came out of the Word of God.
 - i) Today, we are just making up the rules as we go along.
- e) Satan has brought us away from a fixed standard of truth.
 - i) It is wrong to steal because the Word of God says don't steal.
 - (1) Exodus 20:15
 - ii) It is wrong to commit adultery because the Word of God says don't commit adultery.
 - (1) Exodus 20:14

- iii) Sodomy is a sin and an abomination because the Word of God says it is, not because of what we think.
 - (1) Leviticus 18:22
 - f) When we get away from the fixed standard of right and wrong, then we get away from the idea of any judgment.
 - i) Law without penalty is only advice.
 - (1) God was not giving advice when he told Adam and Eve, “In the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die.”
 - (a) Genesis 2:17
 - ii) It is the devil’s gospel that God does not punish sin.
 - (1) God is a good God, but God is also a holy God.
 - iii) The New Age is as old as the Garden of Eden.
 - (1) The New Age has tried to take away the fear of death from individuals through reincarnation.
 - (a) This is the belief that we keep going around and around until we get it right.
 - (i) And that there is no judgment, no death, no Hell, and no personal God to whom we must give an account.
 - 1. “You shall not surely die.”
 - a. Genesis 3:4
 - b. Satan is so clever.
 - g) Satan wants us to believe that we don’t have to worry about what God says; we don’t have to take God’s Word at face value.
- 4) SATAN WANTS US TO THINK SUSPICIOUSLY ABOUT GOD
 - a) This is a lie from Satan that sounds so much like the truth:
 - i) Genesis 3:5
 - (1) “You shall be as gods,” here literally means, “as God, knowing good and evil.”
 - (2) Satan implied the following:
 - (a) God is unfair.
 - (b) God didn’t want Eve to reach her full potential.
 - (c) That Eve had the ability to be a god.
 - (d) God was trying to keep her from personal knowledge where she would just simply have to trust Him and His Word.
 - (i) And Eve wouldn’t understand this unless she ate of the fruit.
 - ii) There is nothing in the world more deceiving than sin itself.
 - (1) Those who know the least about sin are those who are the deepest in it.
 - b) In Genesis 3, we find the dawning of the New Age movement.
 - i) New Ageism is Eastern religion and Eastern mysticism that has come to the West.
 - ii) It is ancient Hinduism that teaches that all is God, God is all, and we ourselves become gods.

- (1) Pantheism is rooted in Hinduism.
 - (a) “Pan” means “all.”
 - (b) “Theism” means “God.”
 - (c) This teaches that God is in all, all is in God, God is all, and all is God.
 - (i) Therefore, we are God.
 - (d) This also teaches that there is no personal God, which contradicts the God of the Bible.
- iii) God to the New Age is an impersonal force.
- iv) Satan told Eve that she could be God.
 - (1) Genesis 3:5
 - (2) This was so subtle because the Bible wants us to be Godlike, not as God but like God.
 - (a) Other subtle differences include:
 - (i) God is love.
 - 1. This is correct.
 - (ii) Love is God.
 - 1. This is not correct, but it sounds almost the same.
 - (iii) God is wisdom.
 - 1. This is right.
 - (iv) Wisdom is God.
 - 1. No, this is wrong.
- c) Satan has deceived the whole world.
 - i) He wants us to think severely about God, skeptically about God, and then suspiciously about God.
 - (1) Once he has done that, he then puts in his own lies.
 - (2) A man’s religion will rise no higher than his concept of God.
- d) Satan tried to tell Eve that God had kept her from reaching her potential.
 - i) God does have a potential for us.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:9
 - (2) Revelation 22:1-5
 - (a) This passage speaks of Heaven.
 - (3) God’s plan for us is to be one with Him and to be like Him.
 - (a) But not to be a cheap imitation of God.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) The devil is more subtle than any beast of the field.
 - i) Genesis 3:1
- b) Why take Satan’s substitute when you can have God’s truth?
- c) Satan wants to deceive you that he might destroy you.
- d) Jesus said that Satan is a liar and a murderer.
 - i) John 8:44
- e) Don’t think about God severely.
 - i) God is a God of love, goodness, and grace.
- f) Don’t think of God skeptically.

- i) There is a God.
- g) God's law stands.
 - i) The soul that sins shall surely die.
 - (1) Ezekiel 18:20
- h) Don't think of God suspiciously.
 - i) The cross upon which Jesus died is a plus sign, not a negative sign.
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16