

# Satan's Plans for You, Mark 1.12-13, 9.27.15

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## Intro

1. "Mark 1.12-13"
2. Every believer in Jesus experiences the temptations of Satan. Either you are warring against it or succumbing to it. There are some who are an incredible threat to Satan and others who cause him no pause. He is not worried about you, nor does he wonder about you, b/c you are ensnared by his lies and plans. You are a roaring lion captive in a cage. Impressive to look at, but completely harmless to his plans.
3. This is the first time Satan is mentioned in the NT. It's no coincidence that we see him tempting the first Adam at the beginning of the OT and now trying to tempt the second Adam (as Paul calls Jesus) at the beginning of the NT.
  - a. Compare & Contrast the two Adams
    - i. First Adam(FA) – brought sin; Second Adam(SA), Jesus, brought forgiveness.
    - ii. FA – death; SA – life
    - iii. FA – condemnation; SA – right relationship with God
    - iv. FA- sinners; SA - righteous
4. Who is Satan:
  - a. He is the fallen angel, Lucifer, who led one-third of the angels to revolt against God – Rev.12.
  - b. Jesus referred to him as the father of all lies; anything contrary to the written or understood will of God emanates from him – John 8.44.
  - c. He is the author of sin, sickness, destruction and every form of evil and chaos known to man – John 8.44, 10.10.
  - d. His names mean accuser , adversary, opponent, dragon, snake, angel of light, tempter & Beelzebub (the Lord of the flies; Lord of demons; Lord of Dung).
  - e. He is a real angelic being who is futilely resisting the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

**Big Idea: Satan is threatened by anyone who is serious about accomplishing God's will and he actively works to derail their progress.**

## Satan's Strategy

1. There is a specific plan aimed at you and your family, Willow and this community:
  - a. "Eph.6.11"- scheme means process, procedure, strategy

- b. "2 Cor.2.11" – scheme means maneuvers or design
- 2. His strategy is pointed at these areas of your life:
  - a. You identity – "If you are..."
  - b. Your purpose – "If you will..."
  - c. Your ego – "Why don't you..."
  - d. Causes you question the goodness of God – Mal.2.17
- 3. Satan's temptations are promises. Consider all the temptations – grumbling, covetous, rage, sexual sin, etc. **Temptations are promises with a hook.** He wants you to take the bait of his promises to be captured. God's promises are truths with a blessing.

## Satan's Tactics - Luke 3.21, 4.1-13

- 1. Satan tempts you when you are the most vulnerable:
  - a. After a great victory – 3.21. He just received His approval and blessing of the Father; He was full of the HS, 4.1. He was at the apex moment of his life to this point. Everything was developing as expected and there were acknowledgements of who He was a person by both His Father and the greatest prophet to every live, John the Baptist. Then, the devil struck.
    - i. It's a fact of life, you are never more vulnerable than when you're the most successful. How many athletes and teams anticipating a sure win let down their guard and then were overtaken at the last moment.
      - 1. **Pics of athletes/teams defeated at lost moment**
    - ii. We need to celebrate victories and breakthroughs but with wisdom and discernment. I have seen people after great spiritual breakthrough quickly be overtaken by another temptation. This not only defeats the person, but it greatly discourages the people who were standing with him.
    - iii. There is a cockiness that often opens the door to compromise which later leads to defeat.
    - iv. Peter & Jesus' denial. They had been riding the wave of great publicity and acceptance and within less than 12 hours he had disowned Jesus three times.
  - b. During a time of immense weakness – Luke 4.2.
    - i. Jesus was worn out and hungry. Like any person who was done a 40 day fast, his body is slow, his emotions are on edge, his judgment isn't clear, his appetite is raging.
      - 1. **Pic of a person tired with their head in their hands.**
      - 2. I go to places in my thought life and with my actions that I don't normally go when I'm rested and full. The worst decisions in our lives are normally made when we're weary or when our physical needs are not met.
      - 3. Satan understands the human condition better than anyone and he targets his temptations for us to give in or act out or run away when

we're weak. He targets those times when you are low to stomp out what little fire may be in you.

4. You may not be physically worn down, but you are emotionally. A big reason why people commit suicide is b/c they are emotionally run down and don't see any way out. It's hopeless and suicide looks like a better alternative than living.
  - a. If you have a family member or friend who is in that low place, do not minimize it or overlook it. Just standing with them during that hard time of temptation is often enough to help them weather the storm.
  - b. Elijah & Jezebaal – it was after a great victory, but he was worn out.
- c. **When I'm by myself** – the angels were attending to Jesus, but that was after the season of temptation.
  - i. **Pic of a person isolated.** You were never meant to do the Christian life alone. Satan specifically targets people who are trying to walk out their faith by themselves.
  - ii. **You are protected inside a fortress, but not inside a tent.** A fortress will weather the storm, but a tent will not. You hunkered down by yourself will not withstand the blistering attacks of the enemy.
  - iii. When Satan's temptations and hardships come at you and you don't have a close set of committed Christian friends to rally around you then **you will fall**. I have witnessed dozens of people over the years who attended Willow, but did not have deep roots in the church fall to temptation and defeat.
  - iv. Surface relationship with others does not count as true Christian fellowship. What I'm talking about is strong, consistent, transparent and faith oriented friendships. You're not going to get that on Sunday morning during a 60 minute worship service.
  - v. One of the loud and clear messages we received from our congregational feedback is a need for fellowship (not fellowships). You look Acts 2.42-47 and a clear sign of the NT church was they spent time together. There was a natural thing happening b/c this was a new movement, but it was also a practical need b/c they were experiencing persecution and hardship. They needed each other to weather the storms of persecution.
    1. We are going to address this issue with more intentional inreach within our ABF structure and small groups for those who don't attend.
    2. The devil is a strategist and he's going to pick off isolated people and couples...get you discouraged, disgruntled, depressed or frustrated.
    3. The lowest point in David's life was in 1 Sam 21 when he was by himself and he finally regained strength when his friends and family arrived.

4. Are you by yourself or are you truly sharing your life with other believers? Are you actively living out your Christian faith other followers of Jesus in openness and vulnerability?

d. **During pivotal seasons** – This was the beginning of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. If he fails at this point, everything else topples over.

i. **Pic of a person at a fork in the road.**

- ii. Satan knows when those strategic moments are in our lives. Most of the time you can rebound from a temptation, but at certain junctures, critical moments, if you give into the temptation then it potentially reshapes the landscape completely.
  1. At salvation
  2. Critical personal decisions and commitments
  3. College or early adult life
  4. Critical relationship moments
  5. New direction and fresh vision
  6. Renewed commitment
- iii. What if Jesus had given in to the temptations? There’s no second chance on this one. Everyone for all eternity loses!
  1. **Pic of a horse with hamstring highlighted.** The OT method of hamstringing a horse. They would cut the hamstring of a war horse so it could no longer gallop and be a threat. He was only good for farming.
- iv. I believe there are some of you who are being tempted to give in to Satan’s strategy right now. He’s telling you to: just give up, quit trying, stop praying, back down, quit believing, take the chance, nobody is watching or do something else.
- v. If you give in to the temptation during pivotal moments, it will impact others negatively. This isn’t just about what’s best for you, but what’s best for those you influence.
- vi. Num.13-14 – They were supposed to go into the PL, but they gave into the temptation to doubt God’s ability to give them the strength to defeat the enemy. and it brought a 40 year halt to the advancement of God’s work. They learned a 40 year lesson b/c they gave into the lies of the enemy.
- vii. Are you in a pivotal moment? Are you about to give up or make a rash decision or do something that you know is contrary to what God has shown you?

**2. He’s always looking for the next opportunity to strike – Luke 4.13.**

- a. It ain’t over until it’s over – Yogi Berra.

**Big Idea: Satan is threatened by anyone who is serious about accomplishing God's will and he actively works to derail their progress.**

**For Further Consideration – (for the back of the bulletin)**

- Review the temptation stories – Matt.4.1-11; Luke 4.1-13
- Have you just experienced a victory? Where might Satan tempt you?
- Are you exhausted and tired? Do you feel the urge to give in to the temptation?
- Are you by yourself or do you have the active support of Christian friends?
- Are you in a pivotal season? Are you about to make a decision that will possibly change your future and others for less than what is best?

**For Contemplative Prayer Time in the Worship Service**

**"1 Cor.10.13"**

**"Prov.3.5-6"**