

Three Things The Devil Knows

Introduction:

- I. He is called the old red dragon. He is called Beelzebub. He is called the wicked one, the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air, and the accuser of our brethren. He is called the god of this world, the old serpent, the great adversary. He is called the Devil and Satan which deceiveth the whole world. To some the Devil is nothing more than a red Halloween costume with horns and a tail. To others the Devil is a god to be worshipped, and still to others the Devil is the evil brother of God. Some people think that the Devil is nothing more than a joke. But may I suggest to you that Satan is no laughing matter. He is indeed real, and the Bible says that he is walking about, seeking whom he will devour.

- II. Now the Bible tells us many things about the Devil. He is old, but not eternal. He is powerful, but not omnipotent. He is intelligent, but not omniscient. The Devil, then, has limitations, but he is still a great adversary to man, and while he is no match for God, he is an enemy that we should all take very seriously. In fact, Paul said that we must put on the whole armor of God so that we may stand against the wiles or schemes of the Devil. But believe it or not, there are some things that we can learn from the Devil. Oh, in many ways we might say that the Devil is ignorant; but there are some things that the Devil knows that we should know as well. In this lesson I want to talk to you about three that the Devil knows.

Lesson:

I. **The Devil Knows Who Jesus Is! (Mk. 5:1-8).**

Now when we read this text, we see an unexpected happening, don't we? One might conclude that the Devil would have his demons to spit on Jesus, to curse Him, and to do all manner of wicked things in His presence. But instead, this man who is under the influence of demons, ran to Jesus and began to worship Him! Why did this demon-possessed man worship Jesus? I'll tell you why. The demons knew who Jesus was. Now, it is reasonable to conclude that if the demons who are under the authority of the Devil knew who Jesus was, so did their master, Satan. There are two things that these demons immediately recognized when Jesus came onto the scene.

A. **They recognized the Divinity of Jesus.**

The demon here referred to Jesus as the Son of the Most High God. Now again, if these demons knew this, their master the Devil

knew it too. And take note of this: any time you read of the Sonship of Christ, it is an indirect affirmation of His Deity. The Jews knew this to be the case (**Jn. 5:16-18; Jn. 10:23-33**). Now this demon who possessed the man in Mark 5 did not have to wait for Jesus to affirm that He was the Son of God. They knew Who He was! They knew that when Jesus arrived on the scene, it was not just an ordinary man arriving. It was God manifested in the flesh. They knew immediately that they were in the presence of Deity. And because they knew that, they recognized something else as well.

B. They recognized the authority of Christ.

Read the text again and you find that this demon knew that he could not withstand Jesus. He knew Who Jesus was, and he knew that all authority belonged to Him. And it wasn't just this demon who were filled with this knowledge. All of the demons that we read about in the gospels of Christ recognized the authority of Jesus whenever He came on the scene. Oh how bold these demons were in the midst of ordinary people. They terrorized people and captured individuals, but when Jesus came around they knew that they were in trouble (**Mk. 1:23-24**). Listen: demons did not have the gumption to shake their fist in the face of Jesus. Only men are foolish enough to do that because many do not know Who Jesus really is, but these demons knew and so did their master the Devil.

So then, our first point tonight is that Satan knows Who Jesus is. He recognizes His Deity and the authority that goes along with that. The Devil knows that every knee will someday bow to Jesus and that every tongue will confess that he is Lord. The Devil knows according to Isaiah 9:6, that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor and the Mighty God. The Devil knows that there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved. The Devil knows that Jesus is the door that leads to heaven. The Devil knows all of this and so should you and I.

And let me say before we move to our next point that if, because of their recognition of Who Jesus is, these demons worshipped Him, so should we! That is, we should always give Jesus the respect that he deserves. There are many who don't do that today. When Jews today pray for the Messiah to come, they are not giving Jesus the respect He deserves. When the Jehovah Witnesses and other false religious groups, deny the Deity of Christ, they are not giving Jesus the respect He deserves. When denominations place men and counsels into positions of authority, giving them the authority to make rules and set forth laws that govern their various denominations, they are not giving Jesus the respect he deserves. When brethren change the work and the mission of the church, turning

the church into a social club, involving themselves in fun and frolic and using the Lord's money to fund their different endeavors, they are not giving the Lord the respect he deserve. Listen to me: when we profess to be Christians and fail to live according to God's Word, we are not giving Jesus the respect He deserves. If we are going to say that we respect Jesus; if we are going to affirm His Deity and therefore His authority; if we are going to claim that we truly know Who Jesus is, it must be demonstrated, not merely by what we say, but by how we live our lives. There are very few in the body of Christ who would say that they do not respect the authority of Christ; but we must prove it by our toil, not by our talk. We must prove it by deeds, not by discourse. We must prove it by our living, not by our lips (**Lk. 6:43-49; 1 Jn. 2:4-6**). Say what you will about Satan and his demons, they deserve any criticism they might get. But know this - they know Who Jesus is and so should we.

II. **They Devil Knows That His Time Is Short (Rev. 12:12).**

One thing we find out in this verse is that the Devil is not walking around with a smile on his face. He is in a bad mood and this context tells us why. Every time the devil tried to defeat the Son of God, his plans were foiled. You see, the Devil knew that the only way he could hold on to his power was to defeat and destroy the Son of God. Satan knew why Jesus was coming to earth. He was coming to set captives free. He was coming to rescue a world that was dead in sin. John put it like this:

1 Jn. 3:8 - "he that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

Satan knew that Jesus was coming for this purpose, so he tried to destroy Him before He even got started (**vers. 1-5**). Now we come to the Cross where the devil again thinks he is going to destroy Jesus, but once again he fails (**vers. 7-9**). Now the significance of Satan being cast out of heaven is that he has lost his power over death (**Heb. 2:14**). Now, the only field where Satan can work is here on earth. Once a person dies in Christ, Satan no longer has any control over him or her at all. The only people that Satan can control now are those who allow themselves to be controlled by him, and I'll tell you something, Satan is still mad about that. He knows that we can all secure for ourselves eternal salvation by the blood of the Lamb (**vers. 10-11**). And what is said about these overcomers here is still very much true. As long as we obey the gospel of Christ and remain faithful unto death (**Rev. 2:10**), victory is ours. Now, lets read verse twelve again. Satan is full of wrath, not only because he has been so thoroughly defeated by God, but also because his time is short.

Listen: the days of Satan are numbered and he knows it. He doesn't know how much time he has, only God knows that; but he knows that his time is short. And Satan isn't just sitting on that knowledge. You can rest assured that the Devil is very active. He doesn't rest! The devil doesn't take naps in the afternoon. He never goes on vacation. He works at accomplishing his will everyday, ever hour and every moment. Why? Because he knows that his days are numbered and that his time is short.

Now, we should know what the devil knows. We do not have anymore time than the devil has, and in fact, we may have less. We all need to know our time is short. Most people don't like to think about the fact that they only have a short life, but it's true. The Bible says our life is but a mist that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. The bible is clear about this.

1 Pet. 1:24 - "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away."

James 4:14

Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Death so no respect of persons. All of our days are numbered; so we all ought to number our days. The psalmist once wrote, **"...teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."** **To number our days is to simple recognize that our time is short and that we must use each day to its fullest.** Let me ask you, if you knew that tomorrow was going to be your last day, how would you live that day? What would you try to accomplish if you were sure that it was going to be your last day?

A. Would you obey the gospel?

Sadly, there are too many who die with good intentions in regard to obeying the gospel. They hear the saving message of God's good news, but procrastinate in their response. In Acts 24 we have a Bible example of this (**Acts 24:22-26**). My friends, don't be like Felix! There won't be a more convenient season to obey the gospel than right now. If you knew that you were going to die this morning, wouldn't you obey the gospel? The fact is, we could die at any moment. Our life is short and our days are numbered. And Jesus is pleading with you through the word of God to obey the gospel right now (**2 Cor. 6:1-2; Heb. 4:6-7; 12:25**).

B. Would you become more active in the local church?

The local church is God's divine arrangement wherein faithful Christians can serve Jesus and further the cause Christ. The local church is the place where we can use our God-given talents to glorify our heavenly Father. And I have often said, there is much work to do in the local church. There is enough work for everyone to be involved. There are sick that need visiting, the wayward that need restoring; there are classes to be taught and classes to be attended; and there is the on going business of provoking one another unto love and good works. There are members of every local church that really don't do anything. They show up for service a few times a month and sit in a comfortable pew and sing a few songs and offer a few prayers and go home, and that is just about the extent of their support of the local church. Listen: that isn't enough. If the church was just a club or a social get-together, that may be enough, but it is not. The church is the body of Christ and in order for it to be healthy and to reach its full potential, every member must strive to reach his or her potential by being actively involved.

Eph. 4:16 - "from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

C. Would you tell someone about Jesus?

This might be the area in which we should recognized our shortness of time the most. We are surrounded by people who are hell bound. Their only hope is Jesus! Their only chance at redemption is the hear the gospel of Christ and obey it. Their only opportunity is now before their days run out. If you knew that today was going to be your last day, would you tell somebody about Jesus? Oh I know that preaching the gospel sometimes is an awesome task even to think about. So many people who are lost, so little time to accomplish what we want. I think some times that we do not preach the gospel like we should because we conclude that we really can't make a difference in the world anyway. But we can! One soul at a time we can make a difference!

The story was told about two men walking down a Mexican beach, talking with one another. They could see a man in the distance throwing something into the ocean. As they got closer, they saw that he was bending over, picking something up and throwing it into the ocean. The closer they got they noticed that he was one of the natives. There were starfish on the beach which were left by the outgoing tide. The native was throwing them out where they could swim away. One of the two men asked, "What are you doing?" The man

replied “I am throwing the starfish back out to sea. If they don’t get back into the deeper water, they will die.” The other man replied, “I understand that part, but look at this beach. It is covered with starfish. There must be thousands stranded out here. How do you feel that this will make a difference? The native bent over, picked up another starfish, hurled him out to sea, and with a smile on his face said, “made a difference to that one!”

Yes, there are thousands who need the Lord. Each one of us can make a difference to someone. But we must recognize that our days are numbered and so we must use every opportunity to accomplish what we want for the Lord and for others. Even the Devil knows that!

III. The Devil Knows Where He Will Spend Eternity!

Satan is familiar with God’s Word. He proved that in the wilderness when he tempted our Lord. And God’s Word reveals to us, and even to Satan himself, the end that he faces.

Rev. 20:10 - “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

The Devil knows this. Now, we should not want to go where the Devil is going, but we should want to know what the Devil knows, i.e., we should want to know where we are going spend eternity. The beauty is that we can know. The Bible not only reveals where Satan will spend eternity; it tells us where everyone will spend eternity. Listen to Jesus on this:

John 5:28-29 - “Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

The question is how do we know whether we have done good or evil? And again the Word of God gives us the answer. The God of heaven has revealed His will to us; thus, the will of God is something that we can know.

Eph. 5:17 - “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understating what the will of the Lord is.”

Now, those that do God’s will are those that are doing good according to the Bible. Those who refuse to do God’s will are doing evil and the end result will be an eternity in the Lake of fire with the Devil (**Rev. 20:14-15**). God’s will is that you obey the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**). How do you do that?

Listen to the inspired words of Peter (**Acts 2:38**). Now comes the hard part. You must remain faithful unto death, constantly walking in the light (**1 Jn. 1:7**). Now, if you are not doing this, you can know that you will be eternally lost (**2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 7:21**).

The other side, of course, is that you can know you are saved. You can know that you have a home in heaven if you obey the gospel and remain faithful into death (**1 Jn. 3:2-3; 3:14; 5:13; 2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Rom. 8:1-4, 15-17; Jn. 11:19-26, etc.**).

Yes, we can know that we have eternal life, and that we are going to live forever with God in heaven. And since we can know, we ought to want to know! But we can also know if we are going to spend eternity in hell. It all depends on the decisions that we make right now in this life.

Conclusion:

Three things that the Devil knows and that we should know. We should know Who Jesus is. We should know that our time is short, and we should know where we are going to spend eternity. The Devil, as ignorant as he may be, knows these things, and we should too.