

Discussion Guide: Our Adversary the Devil - Part 4

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

May 25, 2003: "Our Adversary the Devil - Part 4" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor continued his series on Our Adversary the Devil with a subtitle for today's sermon, "The Great Idea Monster" and focused on one of three strategies of the Devil. Preaching from 1Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11, pastor focused on how Satan loves to play one-on-one.

One of Satan's strategies is to get you alone, cut-off from godly influences and encouraging friends, cut-off from support, hearing the truth, etc. and in this state, introduces doubt and attacks God's word and authority. That's what he did in the three encounters in which we read words that Satan spoke: Adam & Eve, Job, and Jesus. See Background Information.

Begin your discussion with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate your hearts and minds and protect you from Satan's interference¹ as you read and study God's word together.

Open your bibles and read 1Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.

Begin with several content-related questions to get the discussion going.

What appeared to have happened in the life of the believer who fell into sin and was disciplined by the church?

What appeared to have been the reaction of his fellow believers when he responded positively to the discipline?

What was Paul's advice and encouragement to the fellow believers?

Continue discussion with focus on applying God's word.

If improper behavior is allowed to go unchecked, what are the results?

What are the positive results of discipline? In our own lives?² In our family life at home?³ In the body of Christ? On the job in the marketplace? In society at large?⁴

What lessons of life do you find in these passages of scripture, and what would you like to do differently as a result of this study?

Challenge: Pray daily for God to protect you and your family from the influence of Satan and the powers of the unseen world that are at war with your soul and that of your family.

¹ See parable of the sower in Matthew 13:19

² Proverbs 10:17, 12:1, Hebrews 12:4-11

³ Proverbs 3:11-12, 13:24, 29:17

⁴ Proverbs 13:18

Background Information

In Genesis 3:1-13 in his encounter with Eve, Satan [in the form of a serpent] spoke to her when she was alone in the garden and cast doubt, "Did God really say..." He then suggested she would be better off if she disobeyed, "Your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Eve then followed Satan's logic rather than God's direction and not only disobeyed herself but encouraged Adam to follow suit and do the same. When God called Adam to account for his actions, he passed the blame to the women you put here with me. When God called Eve to account for her actions, she passed the blame to the serpent who, "deceived me." As a result of their disobedience sin and death came into the world and the battle for the allegiance of man raged on and will continue throughout history until Satan's final defeat. (Revelation 20:7-10).

As witness to this battle, we read in Job 1:6 - 2:13 how Satan accused Job before God and was allowed to afflict him, but Job remained true to God even during his tragic loss of blessings and the personal time of agony in which he was left alone except for his wife, and three friends who continued to cast doubt and give him negative input. But through it all, Job persevered, and the Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. (Job 42:12).

The third account in which we find the words of Satan in the Bible is at the beginning of Jesus' ministry when he was led out into the desert by the Holy Spirit to prepare himself for the task before him. And during that time when he was alone in the desert, Satan began his attacks by casting doubt upon God's word and attempting to get Jesus to align with him instead of following the will of his Father in heaven. But Jesus countered each attack by quoting the word of God and remained true to his Father in heaven. (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13).

In the letters of Paul to the church in Corinth we read how Paul encouraged them to forgive, comfort and reaffirm their love for an immoral brother who underwent church discipline and repented from his actions, in order to defeat the schemes of Satan...who loves to work on and defeat those who are cut-off from godly influences and encouragement of fellow believers. (1Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

Today, Pastor Kimber pointed out how much more diligent and focused we would be in our walk with the Lord if we could tune into a radio station and listen to the voices of the demonic world as they discuss their plans for bringing us down. Jesus encouraged us to pray daily for protection against the evil one who is out to destroy you. (Matthew 6:9-13, 1 Peter 5:8-9). Pray that we as a body of believers will be motivated daily by the Holy Spirit to do so.