

Gunston Bible Church  
Pastor David Bennett  
March 24 2019

### ***“Got an Enemy”***

This morning we are continuing with our ***“What you Got”*** Series and today we are going to look at the topic of our Enemy, specifically some of his better tactics to try and lure us away from the truth.

We could go through the Bible and see countless examples of Satan’s tactics and temptations and you know I would love to do nothing more than that but for times’ sake we will try and concentrate on David, The Giant Killer and see what we can learn from his journey.

This morning we will look at:

- ***Satan’s Target:*** You’re **Mind**
- ***Satan’ Weapon:*** **Pride**
- ***Satan’s Purpose:*** To make you **Independent** of God’s will
- ***You’re Defense:*** The Indwelling **Spirit** of God

One of the Key verses we will look at this morning is ***Proverbs 16:18***, ***“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”***

If we were to take a poll today and ask you what King David’s great sin was, I am almost positive the majority of you would say ***Adultery***, with Bathsheba, or the ***Murder*** of her husband Uriah the Hittite.

Now both of these sins are **major** and not to be downgraded at all but today we are going to look a little deeper and talk about a sin that had much greater consequences.

For comparison sake let’s look at the facts because of his adulterous affair with Bathsheba. Because of his actions and then follow on chain reactions four people died.

- ✓ Uriah the Hittite
- ✓ The baby that was born
- ✓ Amnon (David's oldest son) heir to his throne who raped his half sister Tamar
- ✓ Absalom, David's 3<sup>rd</sup> son who killed Amnon and rebelled against David

Again please don't make light of David's sins of both **murder** and **adultery** and the devastation it caused, for David said, "***I have sinned***", but when he confessed of his other sin, that we will talk about he said, "***I have sinned greatly.***"

*What was this sin, and what role did Satan plan in it?*

**1 Chronicles 21: 1-2,** <sup>1</sup> *"Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. <sup>2</sup> So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number."*

**1 Chronicles 21: 7,** *"God was displeased with this thing, so He struck Israel. <sup>8</sup> David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly."*

**1 Chronicles 21: 14-17,** <sup>14</sup> *"So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel; 70,000 men of Israel fell. <sup>15</sup> And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy it, the LORD saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "It is enough; now relax your hand." And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>16</sup> Then David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces. <sup>17</sup> David said to God, "Is it not I who commanded to count the*

*people? Indeed, I am the one who has sinned and done very wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, please let your hand be against me and my father's household, but not against your people that they should be plagued."*

### 1. Satan's Target: **Your Will**

Many of you may remember the Beltway Sniper of 2006, his name is John Allen Muhammad and he was convicted in May of 2006 in Maryland for murdering six people, he had already been sentenced to death in Virginia for murders committed there. However, during the trial, some very frightening information was revealed about what Muhammad would have done if he had evaded capture.

According to Lee Boyd Malvo, Muhammad's accomplice in the sniper attacks, he planned to bomb schools and children's hospitals after the sniper phase of his plan was complete. When he was asked why, Muhammad said for the **sheer terror of it**. The worst thing you can do to people is aim at their children.

Satan's goal is always to get to the will and **control** it, he may begin by **deceiving** the mind, as he did with Eve or **attacking the body** as he did with Job, but ultimately he wants to **gain control of the will**, your will and my will.

In the situation above we can see where Satan by-passed the **mind** and **body** and in a **full blitzkrieg** action attacked David's **will** and won.

In this situation David's mind was not deceived he had his eyes **wide open** when he rebelled against God.

Look at David during this time in his life, he was **not suffering** at the time, in fact his Kingdom was not only in **good shape** it was in **great shape**.

He won countless **victories** on the battle field and he was enjoying the eight of his **popularity** and **success** as the **greatest king** Israel had ever had.

You could put him in the stats of **mega star**, or rock God. He was in charge and had all the people **backing him up**.

God is looking for the **full package** from his believers, not a **partial** believer, he is not interested in our intellectual **intelligence**, some call intellectual religion, that seems to satisfy the mind but never possesses the depth to change their lives. (**They can quote scripture but never apply it in their lives**)

Others have what can be referred to as **emotional religion**, (**A religion linked to their emotions**) and as we know emotions are constantly changing, so unless you are on a **constant high**, they will feel as if God has forsaken them when their emotions are in control.

What God is looking for is an Intellectual **Mind**, a Fervent **Heart** and an **obedient will**.

A dedicated Christian **prays** whether **he or she feels like it or not**, it is not based on his **feelings** or emotions, but on **obedience to God**.

We as believers are suppose to Love the Lord our God with “**All our heart (Emotional) and Mind, (Intellect) and Strength (Will)**!”

Your will is very **important** because your will helps determine your **character**, decisions mold your character and your decisions help chart the direction of your life.

You may look at a situation and try and blame your decision on **circumstances or feelings**, emotions or even other people, but we all know that this is a **cop out** that **we are responsible** for the decisions we make.

It is **our will** that will **dictate** and **direct** our life.

We can look at our own salvation story and see that it was only after we answered the alter call or invitation to serve the Lord that we said I will.

One thing we need to remember is that **Satan** is the **ruler of this world**, and if we are Christians we are considered **rebellious aliens** living in **his territory**.

There is a story of a young Indian that decided to climb the summit of a nearby snow-capped peak. He donned his buffalo hide shirt wrapped his blanket around him and set off. After a long while of climbing he finally reached the summit and looked around with pride and accomplishment. He saw a movement and look down at his feet and saw a snake which began to speak to him. The snake pleaded with him that he was about to die, it was too cold for him up there in the mountains, there is little food and he was starving. The snake pleased with the Indian to put him under his shirt to keep him warm and carry him down the mountain.

The Indian said no, I know your kind, I know you are full of lies and venom, and if I trust you that you will never keep your word. **NO** the rattle snake replied, I will treat you differently, if you d this favor for me I will not harm you, but will hold you in respect. Finally the Indian gave into the Rattlesnakes pleading and picked it up and tucked it under his shirt and started the journey down the mountain top. As soon as the Indian reached the valley he took the snake out of his shirt and placed it on the ground and smiled at his accomplishment with **PIRDE**. As soon as the snake was safely on the ground he immediately struck out and bit the Indian on his leg.

As the young Indian felt the venom running through his veins he fell to the ground and protested to the snake, but **you promised**, you said you would not bite me. The snake hissed **you knew** what I was and what I was about before you picked me up.

Don't think for a second that the Devil will not promise to treat you differently in return for something he wishes, but **beware** because he is the ***"Father of Lies"***

***2 Corinthians 11:3, (NASB) "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."***

## **2. What is Satan's Weapon? PRIDE**

David was feeling important when Satan approached him with the suggestions that he number the people.

**1 Chronicles 20** reflects a number of great victories, including the capture of a valuable crown that was placed on King David's head.

It seems as if David won many military victories but lost the spiritual war, because Satan used the victories to inflate David's ego and entice him to go against God's wishes and number the people for self gratification.

Remember David's sin with Bathsheba was a **sin of the flesh** and it had its consequences but when he numbered the people it was a **sin of the spirit**.

Here is an example of the differences of sin of the flesh and sin of the spirit: The prodigal son in Luke was guilty of the **sin of the flesh**, but his proud, critical unbending brother was guilty of the **sin of the spirit**.

It is easy to recognize sins of the flesh and people are very quick to judge or put their two cents in when someone is caught in a sin of the flesh, but do not often offer discipline to other church leaders or members that have sins of the spirit, (**Pride, stubbornness, gossip, jealousy**)

**1 Peter 5:5-6**, <sup>5</sup> *"In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."* <sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."*

When David had the people numbered he did so for his **own** glory and **self** gratification not for the glory of God.

Satan knew that David was feeling victorious and important and took **advantage** of the situation. He wants to do the same with each of us, he wants to do the same today.

He comes into the church not dressed as a devil in a red suit with a pitch fork but he does so in the disguise of a Christian who can quote all the scriptures, the one who shows up to all the meetings but always has a **critical spirit**, always has something to say about someone else, he looks for a Sunday school teacher that is proud of his attendance or a worship leader

that is proud of their singing ability or a preacher that is proud of his delivery techniques, and by doing so Satan has a **foothold** in our church in order to launch his next **attack**.

Many of you may have heard that the great composer Beethoven may have poisoned himself. That's what some scientists believe, after studying strands of his hair it was discovered that his body had one hundred times the normal amount of lead. It is believed that it was this lead that eventually caused his untimely death at the age of 57.

It is believed that this lead poisoning may have been due to the mineral spa he went to for relaxation, the very thing he thought was bringing him relaxation and relief was slowly poisoning him to death.

**Spiritual poison** is like that, as people engage in practices and embrace ideas that are spiritually poisonous they think they're becoming more spiritual but in reality they are gradually being poisoned to eternal death.

### ***3. What was Satan's Purpose? To make you Independent of God's Will.***

The very essence of Sin itself is to make you independent of God; it would elevate us to creator verses creatures.

***Romans 1:25, (NASB) <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.***

Remember if Satan can get you to **act and think** independently of God's will he then can **control** your **will** and eventually control your life.

We all know from studying God's word that the will of God is the most important thing in a believer's life.

Satan as the ultimate Deceiver would like to make each of you ignorant of God will for your life.

Satan as the Destroyer seeks to make you impatient of God's will for your life.

God gave David nearly ten months in which to repent and call off the Census, but he persisted in his stubborn way. This subtle sin of Pride keeps feeding itself and just gets stronger and stronger. It is like an addiction; the more you have the more you want it's a never ending cycle of always wanting more.

Ask most millionaires how much money is enough and they will almost all say just a little bit more. (They will never satisfy that hunger because it feeds upon itself)

David was not guilty of the Lust of the eye (**Bathsheba**) or the lust of the flesh (**Adultery**) but was guilty of the pride of Life.

***1 John 2:25-27, (NASB) “<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.***

Pride simply means we act independently of God's will to accomplish our own selfish purpose.

The definition of Pride: Pride is a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.

It is the state or feeling of being proud, or becoming or dignified sense of what is due to oneself or one's position or character; self-respect; self-esteem.

The Apostle Paul said beware when you feel you have arrived, beware when you feel you are so very important that God or your church could not get along without you.

Beware when you start to rob God of the glory he deserves.

The Englishmen Bobby Leach startled the world by going over Niagara Falls in a barrel without suffering any major injuries. Some years later he slipped on an orange peel and was taken to the hospital with a fractured leg.

The story above deals with the topic of temptation, if the temptation roars around us like the rushing waters of Niagara it may leave us unharmed because we are prepared for it but a little insignificant incident may cause our downfall simply because we are not looking for it.

How do we stay prepared how do we remain vigilant? What is our defense against the Devils attacks?

#### **4. What is your Defense? It is the Indwelling Spirit of God!**

Pride is such a strong weapon when yielded by Satan as the master advisory *“Father of Lies”* How can you defeat him?

The Battle of Antietam in 1862 was the bloodiest day of the Civil War. In just twelve hours there were ten thousand Confederate casualties and even more on the Union side. At last when the sun went down and the battle ended, there was smoke was still heavy in the air, and all you could hear was cries from the thousands upon thousands of wounded.

Though the battle appeared to be a draw the Union General George McClellan was able to end General Robert E Lee’s thrust into Maryland, forcing him to retreat across the Potomac. This was all made possible because (2) Union soldiers found a copy of General Lee’s battle plans and delivered them to General McClellan.

In some respects we are no match for our adversary, Satan, but as with General McClellan our enemy’s plans have fallen into our hands. We know his strategies, to entice us with lies, lust, greed, and the like. With such knowledge given to us through Gods word and his indwelling spirit within us you would think we would easily be able to drive the Devil past the Potomac but we seem to lose ground daily?

In and of yourself you cannot, it is only when you yield to God’s will that you will see the working of God and the Holy Spirit in your life.

***Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB), “<sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure***

It is **only** through the Holy Spirit working through you that you will be able to praise God in any and all situations.

How do you think Daniel made it through the lion’s den?  
Or Shadrach, Meshach or Abednego through the furnace?

It was through the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.

The Holy Spirit can work in your life when your **BODY, MIND, and WILL** are yielded to him.

These are the very areas that Satan wants to attack. He wants to attack your **body with suffering** to make you **impatient with God’s will**, he wants to attack your **mind with lies** to make you **ignorant of Gods will** and attack your **will with PRIDE** to make you **independent of Gods will** for your life.

If you yield these three areas daily to God, he will empower you to defeat Satan!

- ***As the Spirit of Grace*** he will give grace to your body so that you will be able to endure suffering to the Glory of God.
- ***As the Spirit of Wisdom*** he will teach you God’s word and bring it to mind when Satan attacks with his lies.
- ***As the Spirit of Power***, he will empower your will to say “**NO**” to **PRIDE**.
- ***The Holy Spirit*** will work in and through you to defeat the wicked one.

You need to remember in the battle against Satan the only way to defeat him is to surrender, but not to surrender to him but surrender to God.

**James 4:6-7 (Amplified Bible), “But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).<sup>7</sup> So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.”**

**John 15:7 (NASB), “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”**

When Satan comes with **PRIDE** to attack your will, surrender immediately to the Holy Spirit and let him work in you to produce humility and submission before God.

When you are working on your computer and a screen pops up and says you have a virus and your computer is being infected you immediately stop what you are doing, close the browser and run a virus scan to try and detect the virus or attack, if it does not work you call in a specialist to try and save your data but you don't ignore it and think it will go away by itself, so why when we are being attacked by the devil do we not immediately stop what we are doing, use the word of God to run a check and see if it can find anything not in line with the word of God and if we do call in a few brothers or sisters or prayer to get rid of the problem? The majority of the time we ignore it and hope it goes away..... but we know bad news does not get any better with time.

I want to leave you today with a poem by Martin Luther

He Did, He Can, He Will  
The God that stopped the Sun on high,  
And sent the Manna from the Sky,  
Laid flat the Walls of Jericho,  
And put to flight old Israel's Foe,  
Why can't he answer Prayers today?  
And drive each Stormy Cloud away?  
Who turned the water into Wine,  
And healed a helpless cripples Spine,  
Commanded Tempest, Peace be Still,  
And Hungry Multitudes did Fill,  
His Power is just the same today,  
So why not Labor, Watch and Pray?  
He conquered in the Lion's Den,  
Brought Lazarus back to Life again,  
He heard Elijah's cry for Rain,  
And freed the suffers for Pain,  
If he could do those Wonders then,  
Let's prove our Mighty God again.  
Why can't the God who Raised the Dead,  
Gave little David Goliath's Head,  
Cast out the Demons with a Word,  
Yet sees the fall of a wee Bird,  
Do Signs and Miracles today,  
In that same good old-fashioned Way,  
**HE CAN**...He's just the same God today!!

- Martin Luther

**Let us pray.....**