

“Satan Defeated”
Mark 3:20-30
(Preached at Trinity, January 6, 2009)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we looked at the mixed multitude of people that were involved in the life of Christ.
 - A. First, there were the Scribes and Pharisees. These were those who had no place for Christ. They were satisfied. In fact, they saw Jesus as a threat to their way of life. They wished Jesus didn’t exist. There are many like this today. They have no room for Jesus. Salvation demands brokenness. God brings us to the end of our self-sufficiency.
 - B. Then there are the religious – those who gladly follow in religion as long as it doesn’t make demands upon their life.
 1. The multitudes were flocking to Christ by the thousands. They were filled with great zeal over all that Jesus could provide. They weren’t drawn to the excellence of Christ. They only sought Him for what they could receive from Him.
 2. Many today are content to go about the details of religion, often with great zeal, but it is a Christless religion. While they may profess to know Jesus He is not the passion of their lives. In times of persecution or great difficulty they soon fall away. They have no real commitment to Christ or His church.
 - C. Then there are the true disciples. They have been called of Christ and they follow Him. He is the focus of their lives. They love Him with a passionate love.
2. As we continue with **Verse 19** there is a slight textual difference. It has to do with the verse division and a difference in number (sing. Vs. plural). KJV pl. others sing.
KJV **Mark 3:19** – “And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house. ²⁰ And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.”
NAS **Mark 3:19** – “and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. ²⁰ And He came home, and the multitude gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.”
 - A. It doesn’t affect the overall meaning but the Nestle Aland text seems to flow better than the TR.
 - B. After Jesus called His disciples He went into a house – He returned home; back to His headquarters in Capernaum.
 - C. We might expect to hear a discourse from the boat as the multitudes crowded to hear Him but Mark’s Gospel is a primarily a Gospel of action. We find few lengthy discourses like the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew or the sermons recorded in Luke.
3. Mark records that the crowds were again so large that Jesus did not even have time to eat. Certain “friends” became concerned about Jesus’ behavior thinking He had lost His mind. They came to take Him into protective custody.

- A. Mark doesn't give us the identity of these friends. The Greek simply uses a preposition παρά meaning "beside." They were those on His side. They could have been close friends or they could have been family. John records that even His own brothers didn't believe in Him.
John 7:5 – "For neither did his brethren believe in him."
- B. However well intentioned they obviously had little understanding of who Jesus truly was and of His mission.
- C. The followers of Christ have often been seen as mad
Acts 26:24 – "And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad."
4. In this atmosphere of tension Mark records another collision between Jesus and the scribes. Seeing the concern of His family over His mental state the scribes seize the opportunity to declare that Jesus was possessed by Beelzebub, another name for Satan. They had witnessed Jesus' authority over the demons – **See Verses 11-12**
They were declaring that He was doing these works by the power of Satan.
5. Jesus seized the opportunity to declare the defeat of Satan and his kingdom.
- A. First He described the absurdity of their position. If Jesus was casting out demons by the power of Satan then Satan would be battling against Himself. This would be ridiculous.
- B. Instead Jesus had entered the very stronghold of Satan and was laying it waste. When a burglar enters into the home he doesn't expect to receive the willing help of the owner. Instead he first overcomes and ties the owner up and then he carries out his robbery.
Mark 3:27 – "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."
6. Tonight I want to set before you our Lord's great defeat of Satan.
- I. Jesus, by His incarnation began to bind Satan and plunder his kingdom.
- A. It was seen in His victory during the wilderness temptation. – which concluded with the words of our Lord,
Matthew 4:10 – "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."
The command was obeyed – although he would resume his attacks later.
Luke 4:13 – "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."
- B. It was seen in the power of Christ over Satan's servants, the demons
1. See **Verses 11-12**
 2. The demons knew who Jesus was. They knew clearly their doom. They know their time is limited only by the Gospel dispensation.
Matthew 8:29-31 – "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine."

- C. It was seen at the cross.
Colossians 2:15 – “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”
Revelation 12:10-11 – “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”
- D. It was seen in His resurrection and ascension.
Revelation 12:5 – “And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”
1. Jesus has and is entering into Satan’s stronghold and freeing the captives
Ephesians 4:8 – “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”
 2. The work of the Gospel involves the continuing work of setting the captives free.
- II. Satan has been defeated and bound with chains – he no longer has free reign to go to and fro upon the earth deceiving the nations. He is powerless to stop the advance of the Gospel.
- A. This is the plainest interpretation of Rev. 20:1-3
Revelation 20:2-3 – “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”
1. Prior to Christ all of the nations of the world except Israel were held fast under the influence of Satan. Except for an occasional family or city only Israel had God’s special revelation. One might say the nations were deceived by Satan. And the truth is, most of national Israel was also deceived. What was the power behind the Golden Calf incident?
 2. At the Great Commission Christ gave His disciples charge to bring the gospel to the nations. But how is this possible if Satan has deceived the nations.
 - a. Rev. 20:3 gives us the answer. He has been bound.
 - b. Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 – “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

3. This does not mean that Satan can do no harm. It simply means that he no longer has the power to deceive the nations as to keep them from learning the truth of God.
- B. This was demonstrated during the missionary journey of the disciples.
Luke 10:17-18 – “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”
1. Jesus was saying that Satan’s kingdom had just been given a crushing blow.
 2. Satan has fallen in defeat.
- C. We can see further affirmation of this in John’s Gospel
John 12:31 – “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.”
 The activities of Satan have been greatly curtailed.
- III. What does this mean for us
- A. It means we must preach the Word with boldness and power – and it shall go forth with power.
1 Thessalonians 1:5 – “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance . . .”
1. We must be laborers for the Kingdom
 - a. We are involved in the battle of two kingdoms - The Kingdom of our Lord and the kingdom of darkness or Satan
 - b. With the preaching of the Gospel we are continuing to defeat and destroy Satan’s kingdom
 We are assaulting the gates of hell
 2. Although he can hinder our work the Gospel shall not be kept from the elect. We can go forth with confidence.
 3. It means we can stand firm knowing that our enemy is destined for ruin
- B. Although he is defeated he is still our great enemy
1. Although Satan is bound in the sense that He cannot deceive prevent the Gospel from spreading throughout the nations He still stands against us as our enemy.
1 Peter 5:8-9 – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
 2. Satan lies, deceives, tempts – He assaults us with flaming arrows from the abyss. Although he knows his doom is sure he still seeks to destroy the work of Christ.
 3. Satan continually seeks to destroy our holiness. Paul wrote in his epistle to the Ephesians
Ephesians 6:12 – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”

4. This world is his domain. He has jurisdiction over it.
Matthew 4:8-9 – “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
Luke 4:6 – “And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”
5. This is why we should tremble at the thought of being delivered over to Satan
1 Corinthians 5:4-5 – “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

C. We are commanded to resist and contend with this great enemy

1. Paul commands us to march forth with the great sword of the Word of God while trusting in the power of God and praying always.
Ephesians 6:16-18 – “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”
2. We are commanded to resist his lies and temptations continually while always fleeing to Christ.
James 4:7-8 – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. . . .”
3. The point is Satan is a defeated foe. Notice that resisting Him in faith while trusting God’s Word leaves Satan powerless.
 How can he tempt you if the Word of God permeates your heart and mind?
Psalms 119:11 – “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Conclusion:

1. Satan wants to destroy all that is pure and lovely. He wants to rob God of His glory. But he is a defeated foe. In the end Satan will be finally destroyed, cast into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
2. Are you living in light of Satan’s defeat? Are you confidently resisting him while trusting in God’s Word? Are you confidently bringing the Gospel to the lost? Our labors are both offensive and defensive.
Matthew 16:18 – “. . . upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”