

“Get Behind Me Satan – Part 2”
Mark 8:31-33
(Preached at Trinity, March 14, 2012)

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 began to unfold the unusual and even fearful words of Jesus to Peter.
Mark 8:33 NAU - "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
2. If you’ll remember the context, Peter had just made the great profession regarding the identity of Jesus:
Mark 8:27-29 NAU - ""Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ And He *continued* by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."
3. On one hand, Peter’s answer was wonderful and bold. In fact in Matthew’s Gospel Jesus declared:
Matthew 16:17 - "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
4. Peter gave the correct answer—“You are Christ,” but is also important to understand that at this point Peter’s understanding was still quite deficient regarding the full nature of Christ and His work.
In many ways Peter was still holding on to the Jewish concept of the Messiah. He was to come as an earthly ruler, a political leader with great power and might who would conquer all of Israel’s enemies and rule with absolute authority over the nations.
5. This is why the next words of Jesus must have filled Peter with shock and dismay.
Mark 8:31-32 NAU - "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And He was stating the matter plainly."
6. Mark states that Jesus was speaking “plainly.” Literally it says in **Verse 32** He “spoke the Word.”
Most translations do not pick up on this distinction—“The Word.”
Jesus was plainly teaching “The Word” to His disciples.
He was plainly declaring the Gospel to His disciples.
He spoke with an openness never before displayed.
7. But from Peter’s perspective, how could this be?! Was Jesus actually saying that the Messiah, the King, the long awaited ruler would be killed.
Peter thought that Jesus was surely mistaken. What would the multitudes think if they heard Jesus talk like this? So with the best of intentions he thought it was essential that he correct Jesus. The word implies great firmness.
8. Peter had the best of intentions. The best of intentions. Some of the worst deeds of history were done with the best of intentions. What Peter failed to realize is he was being used of Satan to hinder the work of Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew we read an additional statement:

Matthew 16:23 NAU - "'Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.'"

σκάνδαλον – ESV: “hindrance” KJV: “offense”

A. The Bible condemns those guilty of putting such hindrances before the people of God

Luke 17:1-2 NAU - "'It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! ² "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble."

B. Paul warns us to turn away from such people.

Romans 16:17 NAU - "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them."

9. “Get behind Me” – some suppose that Jesus is commanding Peter to get behind Him and follow Him. It is true that Jesus uses the same word in **Verse 34** – “Come after”

But here He adds the word, ὑπάγω which means “to depart.”

Jesus had used this word before during the wilderness temptation - "Begone, Satan!" Most likely Jesus is telling Peter something like, “Get out of My sight!” And addressing him as Satan makes it clear this is a sharp rebuke. Jesus is implying that Peter is being used of Satan.

10. Peter was completely unaware that while he thought he was acting in the best interest of Christ and with the best of intentions, he was actually following the deception of Satan.

11. This brings us to the point tonight of how this works out in practice.

I. First we need to know that in terms of our spiritual battle, our war is not ultimately against flesh and blood, that is, with other people. Paul says our battle is with Satan. **Ephesians 6:10-12 NAU**- "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*."

A. This is not diminishing the struggle we have with our own flesh - our struggle with our own sinfulness

1. On one hand we can't blame our sinful behavior on Satan

James 1:14 NAS - "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust."

2. We DO wrestle with our flesh and we must battle to keep it under subjection.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NAU- "but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

3. But we must never diminish the reality of our spiritual battle with Satan

B. Paul is speaking primarily here with our involvement with other people - our problem is not primarily a human or earthly problem

1. Satan is referred to as the “god of this world.”
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NAU - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
 - a. The people of this world reflect Satanic values
 - b. This is what Jesus means in **Verse 33**
Mark 8:33 NAU - "for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
 - c. Peter's response was characteristic of unregenerate human nature.
2. The point is there is more than what can be seen with the eye
 - a. There is a real, personal being who is our enemy.
 - b. This is what we see in this passage in Mark. Although the words were flowing from Peter's lips, his ideas were reflective of Satan's lies and deception.
 - c. Paul understood the nature of the war. He told the church of Thessalonica that he planned to visit them but severe opposition hindered him. He knew, however, that it was actually Satan that stirred up the opposition.
1 Thessalonians 2:18 NAU- "For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and yet Satan hindered us."
 3. The same can be said of those who preach false doctrine.
 Paul described the true nature of false teachers
2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NAU- "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds."
 - a. We shouldn't imagine that the false teachers are conscious that they are following Satan. Most false teachers sincerely believe that their teaching is sound.
 - b. I'm sure Art Bell's declaration that a loving God could never send a person to hell is made with the best of intentions.
3. Martyn Lloyd-Jones – “We are citizens of the Kingdom of God, but the Bible tells us that we are opposed by another kingdom, which is also a spiritual kingdom, and that all along we are being attacked and besieged. From the moment we become a Christian we become the special object of Satan's attention.”

II. How does Satan work against us?

- A. We are in a spiritual war
 1. There are spiritual realities that are difficult to explain
 The Bible tells us that Satan is attacking us
 He is shooting fiery spiritual arrows at us
 He is coming against us with schemes and deceits

2. This is one of the purposes of pastors—to protect the church from the lying schemes of Satan.
Ephesians 4:14 NAU - "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming"
 3. All of this is taking place in the level of our mind
Satan brings thoughts into our mind
Calvin – “Truth (Satan) assails with lies, light he obscures with darkness. The minds of men he involves with error; he stirs up hatred, inflames strife and war, and all in order that he may overthrow the kingdom of God, and drown men in eternal perdition with himself.”
Further Calvin says, “God employs unclean spirits in exercising believers by warring against them, assailing them with wiles, disturbing, alarming, and occasionally wounding, but never conquering them.”
 4. This is the battle Peter was struggling with – and at this point he was completely unaware of it
- B. Satan is a master of deception
1. **Ephesians 6:11 NAU**- " Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."
 - a. Schemes - μεθοδεία – trickery, deceit
 - b. Our mind is a wonderful gift, makes us different from the animals - It is the object of attack by the enemy.
 2. Satan has been a deceiver from the beginning
He inspires false teachings
1 Timothy 4:1 NAU- " But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,"
John 8:44 NAU- "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- D. Satan sows seeds of doubt and discouragement
1. A thought will unexpectedly enter into our mind
 2. This is what we are seeing with Peter in this passage. Satan was using him to discourage Christ
- III. Satan can use you to discourage and hinder others - “Get behind me Satan”
- A. Believers who have have their discernment weakened can actually be used of the devil – and in their weakened state, not even know it
1. We can be guilty of using harsh and unkind words, gossip – We can hinder the work of the kingdom
Jesus was telling Peter that he was actually being used to make His work more difficult.
Matthew 16:23 NAS- "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

- a. Peter was being a stumbling block (σκάνδαλον)
 - b. Satan is involved in most church problems
 - c. We can hold grudges and bitterness
2. Satan turns our thoughts towards ourselves rather than to God
 1. We become puffed up with pride. Satan is a master of stirring up our pride.
James 4:6-7 KJV - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - a. The problem with pride is we always think we're right
 - b. Is there ever a time in your whole life that you ever considered that you were being used as a tool of Satan.
 - c. It is far more likely you've thought other people were being used.
 2. We can cause strife with one another and in the church and even think we are right.
 Have you ever held a grudge? Have you ever been envious or jealous of someone?
Ephesians 4:26-27 NAS- "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity."
 3. He can make us so unhappy that we will leave our church – and we will be completely unaware that Satan is the source – and we will feel completely right and justified.
- C. In such a state we are completely blind to the harm we are doing.
 1. Jesus tells Peter: "for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
 2. Jesus was telling Peter that he had a carnal earthly mind

Conclusion:

1. How do we protect ourselves from these attacks of Satan?
 - A. We must continually pray for and seek humility. It is at the place of pride that we are most vulnerable to Satan's attacks
James 4:6-7 NAS - "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
1 Timothy 3:6 NAS - "*and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."
 - B. While consumed with pride we can cause all manner of damage in our relationships or in our church and never be aware of Satan's involvement in our life.

2. We must stand firm putting on the whole armor of God.
Ephesians 6:11-13 NAS - "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."
3. We must hold fast to God's Word
The Word of God swallows Satan with his lies. Satan has never been able to withstand God's Word
Jesus used three simple words to defeat Satan in the wilderness temptation:
Matthew 4:7 NAU - "it is written"