

**"...THEN COMETH THE DEVIL" or
"WHEN SATAN SPEAKS"**

TEXT: *Luke 8:11-12 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

THESIS: To show the reality of spiritual warfare and Satanic suggestions.

INTRO.: A. When God speaks it is objective, written, infallible and unchangeable. **"WHEN SATAN SPEAKS"** it is subjective, subtle, a lie and constantly changing. God's Word is always true, Satan **"is a liar and the father of it."** *Jn.8:44*

B. I often wonder how many Christians actually believe in a literal, personal devil?!

Witches and warlocks believe in the devil and openly worship him. **Rock musicians** believe in the devil and make pacts and covenants with him. **Hollywood** believes in the devil and make multi-million dollar motion pictures about him (*"The Exorcist," "The Omen – 666," "Rosemary's Baby," "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings" etc. – not to mention all the Disney movies that deal with the occult and witches, spells, etc.!*). **The TV industry** believes in Satan: "Buffy...", "Sabrina, the Teen Age Witch," "Bewitched," "Touched By An Angel (!)," "The Munsters," "The Addams Family," "The X Files," "Witch blade," et.al. **The occult industry** believes in Satan: Oijia boards, spells, potions, games: "Dungeons & Dragons," etc, even if you don't!

C. **Jesus Christ** believed in Satan and had personal encounters with him. **The Apostles** believed in Satan & were given power to bind him and his demonic cohorts. **The early church** believed in Satan & experienced great victories because of their belief in him and the power of the Lord over him.

D. **You** had better believe in the devil! He is alive, alert and active. He blinds the lost to the saving message of God's Word and sets snares to trap the believer. We are admonished in Scripture not to be **"ignorant of his devices"** *2 Cor.2:11*. We are warned not to be deceived by him, and that he can transform himself **"into an angel of light"** *2 Cor.11:14*.

Satan shows up personally or in the person of one of his devils in the life of the believer at 3 special times in his life. As our text says... **"...then cometh the devil"** and when he shows up he will have subtle suggestions to ensnare you. We need to listen when God speaks, but we need to beware **"WHEN SATAN SPEAKS..."**

I. ...AFTER CONVERSION: (text)

ILLUS.: Whenever the seed of the Word of God is sown, the devil is busy sending his cohorts to pluck up the seed. Cf. v.4,5 There is a warning here to all unsaved listening to this message. First, don't put off salvation. If God's Word speaks to you today, immediately act on it! Don't delay. **Delay brings disaster.** The text says **"...then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."**

Often believers say, how come we get so many "decisions" that don't pan out? **"...then cometh the devil."**

Whenever God is speaking, you can be sure the devil is also speaking! He is a ventriloquist. He might speak through the lips of some demon-possessed lost person or through some demon-directed, dried-up Christian...

A. "That was too easy!" (*hear the hiss of the serpent?!*)

1. He wants you to believe that God made salvation difficult or restricts it to a certain group of the "elect."

QUOTE: John Calvin: "Scripture clearly proves...that God by His eternal and immutable counsel determined once for all those whom it was His pleasure one day to admit to salvation, and those whom, on the other hand, it was His pleasure (!) to doom to destruction." (Calvinism makes God into a Bully!)

2. The biblical method of salvation is not "easy believism" as some charge, but God surely did not intend the opposite: "difficult believism"! "What must I do to be saved?" cried the Philippian jailer. Paul's answer wasn't "check to see if you are one of the elect!" or "take the sacraments & do good works" - rather he said: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."**

B. "You didn't mean it!" (*smell the sulfur on his breath?!*)

1. Only YOU know whether you meant it or not! Don't let Satan talk you out of it.

2. I know Jesus meant it, because He went to the cross for me to prove it & He is the One who told me to accept Him.

C. "You won't stick!"

ILLUS.: I got saved 65 years ago & I haven't come unstuck yet! I was 22 and am now 86. That's why you need to obey ASAP after you are saved, to seal the decision you made. That's why baptism is so important. It is a matter of obedience. If you don't obey, you will have doubts. The more you obey the longer you will "stick." But no matter what, you can't come unstuck! You have become His child!

II. ...AFTER COMMITMENT: Mt. 4:1-4ff

ILLUS.: Jesus had just gotten baptized to launch His public ministry and **"...then came the devil!"** He knows he can't take your salvation, so he works on your commitment. Notice in Lk.4:13 how that after the devil loses this round with the Lord, he departs... **"for a season!"** One thing you can count on Satan for, is his faithfulness. He will be back again and again. He will never let you alone. You will smell his sulfur breath as he whispers...

A. "You can't do it!" (*see his forked tongue?!*)

1. You *can* do it or God wouldn't have asked you to do it.
2. If your commitment was of God and in line with Script., the Holy Spirit will give you strength to do it.

B. "You can't afford it!" (*feel his cold touch?!*)

1. The Lord has been dealing with you about giving, but the devil discourages you.
2. The Lord has been dealing with you about serving, but the devil detours you.
3. You have to remember the promise: **"Faithful is He That calleth you, Who also will do it."** 1 Thes. 5:24

C. "You can't make it!" (*the arch-doubter speaks!*)

1. You can believe the promise of God or the lie of the devil.
2. You can believe God's Word or take the word of a devil.

ILLUS.: Beware being the one who causes one of the "least of these" or one of these "little ones" to stumble! Don't be a parent or teacher or "friend" who throws cold water on someone's commitment.

Luke 17:1-2 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.**

III. ...AFTER VICTORY:

ILLUS.: Maybe you just got the victory over being a soul-winner, a better wife or husband, started tithing, or made a commitment about your modesty, your wardrobe, a bad habit, etc. You will soon hear Satan's raspy voice, perhaps through a deacon, a "friend" or some well-intentioned family member...

A. "That wasn't God!" (*the great deceiver lies to you!*)

ILLUS.: Your victory didn't come from your corrupt *flesh*; it didn't come from *the world* which wants you to conform to itself; it didn't come from *some dead god or statue*, but from the living God! The unholy spirit doesn't want you to have the victory. Only the Holy Spirit desires that.

Or maybe you will feel the chill on your neck as Satan subtly suggests....

B. "It was just emotions!" (the faithless devil appeals to your flesh!)

ILLUS.: "The preacher is just a man." "You got caught up in his emotionalism or his sensationalism." "The preacher told a sad story and you became teary eyed..." "You were at camp and everyone else was going forward...you heard them give a testimony..."

C. It wasn't real!" (*the fallen cherubim is the father of lies!*)

1. The doubts are sure to come – but the devil is a liar!
2. You come down off the Mt. top – but the Lord is the Lord of the valley too!

CONCL.: If you believe in God and the Bible, you must also believe in the devil! Every time you try to do right **"...then cometh the devil"** – to discourage you, defeat you and detour you, from doing what God has told you, **"WHEN SATAN SPEAKS"** tell him you would rather listen to God's Word!