

SATAN AND SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Matthew 8.28-34

JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

Matthew 8.28-34 // Mark 5.1-20

Satan had to ask God for permission to torment Job. Satan is never allowed beyond what God allows. Satan is not sovereign. God alone is sovereign. And God, in His sovereignty, allows Satan certain things, but all in order to ultimately bring about the glory of God. To show that He is above all things.

Revelation 20.7-10

Satan's ability to deceive and blind is alarming. What is the difference between the demoniac and the townspeople? Or the disciples in the boat and the townspeople?

THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

The same sun that melts the snow hardens the clay.

God shows us grace in various ways, but we oftentimes spurn His grace. Because of blindness, we don't receive the grace of God, especially that which comes through discipline or difficulty (in this case, the loss of income that the herd would bring).

For the Unbeliever: As 1 Corinthians says, without God opening our eyes, we simply can't see the reality of our spiritual state. It is only by God's grace we are saved and can come to a place of saving faith.

1 Corinthians 2:14

For the Believer: God gives us the grace of prayer, the Word, and Gospel community to intervene amidst our blindness. But because of blindness, we oppose and shun the grace of God by hardening our hearts towards these.

Hebrews 3.12, 13 // Jeremiah 17.9, 10 // 1 John

A prayer to pray: Lord, I have blind spots. I need your grace to either see them through Your Word, or see them through your people. Humble me in order to see these, not having fear of man or failure or exposure. I know Your grace is given in order to set me free from the chains that bind me.

1 John 4.4



NOTES:

Recommended Resources

Radical by David Platt

A great book on living the life of real, radical discipleship.

The Gospel Transformation Bible

Published by Crossway, this bible is not *so much* a study bible, but a bible with commentary to help you see the bigger picture of Christ and His Gospel in and through all the Scriptures.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read Matthew 8:28-34. What verses stuck out to you or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

CS Lewis noted that the two greatest common mistakes that Christians make with Satan and demons is this; one, we don't believe they exist, therefore deceiving us. The second mistake we make is that we give them too much credit for making or causing us to sin. Do you struggle to believe that we battle against an evil power? Or do you make the mistake of saying things like, "the devil made me do it!?" Which mistake do you usually make? _____

Read Genesis 3:14-15, Psalms 91:13 and Romans 16:20. On Sunday, Jobey talked about how Jesus has authority over Satan and demons. He mentioned that Satan is never allowed beyond what God allows (**Job 1:12**), he is not sovereign (**James 4:7**). God alone is sovereign (**Psalms 135:6, Isaiah 46:10**), and God, in His sovereignty, allows Satan certain things, but all in order to show that He is above all things (**Ephesians 4:6**). How does seeing the contrast between who God is and who Satan is help you when you are tempted to sin? _____

Read Luke 10:17-20. The awesome truth about the cross of Christ is this: through the grace of Christ, our allegiance to Satan is canceled, and our freedom to Christ is granted. God's enemy becomes our enemy and Jesus' authority becomes our authority. What is the bad news (first half of verse 20) for those of us "In Christ" in this story? But what is the Good News (verse 17-19) for those of us "In Christ" in this story? _____

Re-read Matthew 8:34 and Genesis 3:1-6. Satan's ability to blind is alarming. Not only did Satan deceive Eve, but he clearly blinded the townspeople in the Matthew 8 story too. How has Satan blinded you of your sins in the past? After you confess your past blindness, then ask one another how you finally realized that you were being deceived. _____

Read Ephesians 6:11-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 3:12-13. What are three HUGE ways that we can avoid our enemy, Satan from deceiving us and instead experience God's grace? _____

One great way that can help you see your blind spots is by having a "**Fight Club**" with a godly friend. **Fight Clubs** are where 2-3 people get together and "fight" for the Gospel being "of first importance" (**1 Corinthians 15:3**) in each other's lives. Before the end of the week, set up a regular **Fight Club** appointment with someone that is growing closer to the Lord. Because our flesh so often fights ideas like this, read **Jeremiah 17:9-10, Proverbs 27:17 and Matthew 13:15**. Why is it so crucial for our spiritual health to meet with others? If you understand the significance of **Fight Clubs** but are not meeting with someone, why not? What's your reason and do you need to repent? _____

Read Daniel 6:10 and Ephesians 6:18. Spend some time in prayer, praying something like the one at the bottom of the sermon notes.

Memory verse of the week. **Ephesians 6:11-13**