

Working as Hard as Satan

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. Luke 16:1-8

1. What did the unrighteous steward do?

a. He was stealing his master's money for a while before he was told to leave. In that respect he is like the Jewish leaders who were stealing from their Master before they were told that the Kingdom will be taken away from them. Our Lord said of them that they were robbers of widow's houses.

2. How was the unrighteous steward wiser than the religious leaders?

a. When he was told that time for judgment has come and his master was going to dismiss him, he started looking ahead to secure his future.

b. But the religious leaders, when they were told that judgment is now and they will be cast out of the kingdom, did not look ahead to make friends of the widows they robbed. When John came preaching righteousness, they did not repent of theft and murder, but others did, like the harlots and tax-collectors.

B. As strange as this parable may seem, it speaks an undeniable truth; that is, the foresight and determination of the Adversary should inform Christians.

I. THE ADVERSARY KNOWS HOW TO PREPARE

A. Eph. 6:11; Matt. 13:24-30, 37-40

B. We need to prepare for the work set before us.

1. What kind of preparation do we make for reaching the lost? - Eph. 6:15

2. What preparations have we made for judgment? - Matt. 24:44

II. THE ADVERSARY KNOWS HOW TO PERFORM

A. Satan doesn't stop with the planning phase; he performs his plans.

B. Do our plans find expression in performance? - 2Cor. 8:10-11, 9:1-5

1. Matt. 21:28-32

III. THE ADVERSARY KNOWS HOW TO PERSIST

A. Satan doesn't give up after being defeated - Luke 4:13; 1Peter 5:8-9

B. Do we give up too soon? - Luke 11:5-8, 18:1-8

IV. THE ADVERSARY KNOWS HOW TO PERSUADE

A. In spite of knowing the consequences of sin, how can the Devil still convince humankind to sin? - 2Cor. 11:3-4, 13-14; Matt. 7:15; 2Tim. 4:3-4

B. We must be persuasive with the Gospel message without being deceitful.

1. 2Cor. 5:10-11; Luke 14:23

2. "Compel" from anagkazo: "to necessitate, constrain, to prevail upon by the most earnest entreaties, prayers, and counsels" (Strong's).

Conclusion: As counterintuitive as it may sound, we need to be more like Satan in these matters. We can use these qualities of the Adversary for more noble purposes.