

Working as Hard as Satan

Luke 16:1-8

Luke 16:1-8

- “He also said to His disciples: ‘There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. 2 So he called him and said to him, “What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.” 3 Then the steward said within himself, “What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.” 5 So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, “How much do you owe my master?” 6 And he said, “A hundred measures of oil.” So he said to him, “Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.” 7 Then he said to another, “And how much do you owe?” So he said, “A hundred measures of wheat.” And he said to him, “Take your bill, and write eighty.” 8 So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.’”

Luke 16:1-8

- What did the unrighteous steward do?
- How was the unrighteous steward wiser than the religious leaders of Jesus' day?
- As strange as this parable may seem, it speaks an undeniable truth; that is, the foresight and determination of the Adversary should inform Christians.

The Adversary Knows How To Prepare

- Eph. 6:11 - "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

The Adversary Knows How To Prepare

- Matt. 13:24-30 - "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

The Adversary Knows How To Prepare

- Matt. 13:37-40 - "He answered and said to them: 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.'"

The Adversary Knows How To Prepare

- What kind of preparation do we make for reaching the lost?
 - Eph. 6:15 - “And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”
- What preparations have we made for the Judgment?
 - Matt. 24:44 - “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Adversary Knows How To Perform

- Satan doesn't stop with the planning phase; he performs his plans.
- Do our plans find expression in performance?
 - 2Cor. 8:10-11 - “And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.”

The Adversary Knows How To Perform

- 2Cor. 9:1-5 - “Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority. 3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready; 4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.”

The Adversary Knows How To Perform

- Matt. 21:28-32 - “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ 29 He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.’”

The Adversary Knows How To Persist

- Satan doesn't give up after a defeat.
 - Luke 4:13 - "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."
 - 1Peter 5:8-9 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

The Adversary Knows How To Persist

- Do we give up too soon?
 - Luke 11:5-8 - “And He said to them, ‘Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; 7 and he will answer from within and say, “Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you”? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.”

The Adversary Knows How To Persist

- Luke 18:1-8 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: ‘There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, “Get justice for me from my adversary.” 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, “Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.” 6 Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?’”

The Adversary Knows How To Persuade

- In spite of knowing the consequences of sin, how can the Devil still convince humankind to sin?
 - 2Cor. 11:3-4, 13-14 - “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it! ... 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

The Adversary Knows How To Persuade

- Matt. 7:15 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”
- 2Tim. 4:3-4 - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

The Adversary Knows How To Persuade

- We must be persuasive with the Gospel message without being deceitful.
 - 2Cor. 5:10-11 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”

The Adversary Knows How To Persuade

- Luke 14:23 - “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’”
- “Compel” from anagkazo: “to necessitate, constrain, to prevail on by the most earnest entreaties, prayers, and counsels” (Strong’s).

Working as Hard as Satan

- 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.