

LIES THAT DEFEAT US

The Satan Series #9

November 26th, 2017

TEXT: Matthew 16:21-23; 26:36-39

CONSIDER THIS: You have been lied to. Repeatedly. Relentlessly. The one who has lied to you will continue to do so for as long as you live. He knows you. He has deceived the entire human race for thousands of years with his lies. He knows how to attack your emotions and your thought processes. He is not fair. He delights in your defeat. He hates God so he hates you as a means of defying God. He hates you. He has defeated you many times. You have believed his lies. Often. Far too often. Even today you may be currently believing something that is not true. This is not of God. It comes from Satan. Once he gets you to believe a lie, any lie, he begins to steal from you. The more he steals from you the greater will be the degree of destruction that is unleashed. He is not a god. He has limits. But he is dangerous. Don't believe his lies. You can't afford to.

GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ...

I GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT YOUR WAYS

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways", declares the LORD.
Isaiah 55:8*

- A) This is extremely fertile ground for Satan's lies to take hold in your heart, in your decisions and in your actions. The poison unleashed in Genesis 3:1-6 flows through our veins today.
- B) Christian, in the final analysis, the entire story and summary of your life will boil down to this: "Did you really trust God?" (Psalm 56:3-4; 62:8; Isaiah 26:3-4; Proverbs 3:5-6).

Satan will attack your fears, your pride, your lusts and your doubts. He will attack God's character to cause you to think God's will for your life cannot be trusted.

II GOD'S PLANS ARE FOR YOUR GOOD

- A) The Jewish concept(s) of the person and work of the promised Messiah left no room for Him to suffer the ignominy of crucifixion (see I Corinthians 1:20-23).
- B) Prior to Matthew 16:20-23 Jesus had already made veiled references to His death (John 2:18-22; Matthew 12:38-40). Now He speaks openly of God's plan for the cross.
- C) In 16:21 when Jesus said that He **must go to Jerusalem** He was declaring:
 - 1. This is my Father's will and His plan
 - 2. I am here to do my Father's will

KEY: What the first Adam was unwilling to do, the second Adam was determined to do ... and this plan was for our good! (I Corinthians 15:21-22).

D) Peter's rebuke of Jesus was not delicate and it was way out of line (Matthew 16:22).

NOTE: Peter was at least partly motivated by his genuine love for Jesus. Christian, if your love for another person causes you to give unbiblical counsel you are sinning against God and you are hurting the person you are trying to help. This is the danger of believing Satan's lies.

E) Jesus's rebuke of Peter in 16:23 exposed the influence of Satan's lies in Peter's thinking. What Peter had said in 16:22 was similar to Satan's tempting of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-10 = Take the Messiah's throne now and by-pass the cross.

F) Jesus to Satan in Matthew 4:10 → "Away from me, Satan"
Jesus to Peter in Matthew 16:23 → "Get behind me, Satan"

G) Imagine if Jesus had listened to Peter and by-passed the cross. Imagine if instead of Jesus praying "Not my will", He had prayed "Not Your will". Satan's lies are devastating if believed.

III DON'T DO SATAN'S WORK FOR HIM

A) Christian, there is no improving upon the will of God as revealed through His Word. Satan lies to us when he tells us that there are times when it is better to set aside what God says.

B) Satan loves it when we do his dirty work for him. When we give someone else counsel/advice that goes against God's Word we are the messenger of Satan's lies. Example: The Corinthian Church approved of something that God's Word condemned (I Corinthians 5:1-5).

C) Here is a good way to detect the influence of Satan's lies in your thinking. If your response to something in God's Word is "Yeah, but" ... "This case is different" ... "I will ask for forgiveness later" ... "This isn't really that bad", then you are believing a lie. When what the Bible says is at odds with what you desire, what you think is best, what you believe or what you have planned, the right thing to do is this "Father, not my will, but Your will be done."

*"If you hold to my teaching,
you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free."*

- Jesus Christ
(John 8:32)