

The Journey

Satan's Dream Lesson 4 Outline

One Sentence Summary Statement Outline:

- a. Review
 - i. The goal is to look at Satan's strategy in rebelling against God.
 - ii. In his original sin, Satan's goal has been to rob God of His glory.
- b. Body
 - i. Satan's strategy is to block God's dreams from becoming a reality.
 - ii. He is focused on blocking God's glory, and he only focuses on us because God's dreams involve us.
 - iii. God's dream is:
 - 1. God wants to live out and show off His glory.
 - 2. He wants to sum up all things in His son Jesus Christ.
 - 3. He wants His creation to find their joy, their greatest delight, in His son.
 - iv. Satan wants to stop those three goals from becoming a reality be:
 - 1. Delete the gospel.
 - 2. Dilute the gospel.
 - 3. Distract people from the gospel.
 - 4. Each correspond with God's goals:
 - a. To keep Him from showing off and living out His glory: he deletes the good news.
 - b. To keep all things from being summed up in Jesus Christ, Satan is going to Dilute the gospel
 - c. To keep the joy of humanity from being in Jesus, he will Distract us from God's Son as being the supreme joy of all creation.
 - v. Keeping God from living out and showing off His glory by deleting the gospel.
 - 1. To keep the gospel from being heard throughout the ends of the earth.
 - 2. And therefore not giving people a chance of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and get saved.
 - 3. And if they don't come into a personal, eternal relationship with God, then God won't be able to live out and show off His mercy forever. (Remember life is primarily about God, about what He is doing, it's not about us.
 - 4. Satan tries to delete the gospel by:
 - a. Tried to kill Jesus when he was a child by getting Herod to order the deaths of every male child two years old or under. (Matthew 2:16)
 - b. Tried to kill Jesus as an adult but it resulted in salvation being made available to all of humanity.

- c. Tries to keep people from hearing God's plan of salvation preached to them.
 - i. David Barret and Todd Johnson of the World Christian Encyclopedia tell us that as of today, 10.7% of the people on earth are true believers.
 - ii. By 2025, it is estimated that 10.8% of the people of the earth are true believers.
 - iii. 22.3% of the world who claim to be Christians, but they are really just playing games with God in churches.
 - iv. In the Worst case scenario, it means Satan has deleted the gospel in 89.3% of the world. Therefore only one in every ten people on the face of the earth knows Christ in a personal way.
 - v. In the Best case scenario, it means that Satan has deleted the gospel in only 67% of the world who do not call themselves Christians in any way. They are the Muslims, the Buddhists, the Hindus, the Tribals, the Unreligious and multitudes of other smaller non-Christian religions of the world.
 - vi. The October 2007 edition of Evangelical Missions Quarterly tells us that over 86% of all Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims do not even know a Christian. Globally, over 80% of all non-Christians do not personally know a Christian.
 - vii. Satan is effectively deleting the gospel in much of the world...up to 89% of the world has never heard the true message of Jesus Christ.
- 5. Satan dilutes the gospel with at least four strategies:
 - a. He dilutes non-Christians understanding of who Jesus is.
 - b. He dilutes the power of the name of Jesus.
 - c. He dilutes the effectiveness of the church.
 - d. He dilutes the need of world missions in the church.
- 6. Satan dilutes a non-Christians understanding of who Jesus is.
 - a. He keeps them from believing in the deity of Christ
 - b. He makes them believe Jesus was a mere man.
 - c. Islam is the largest non-Christian religion of the world and they make up roughly one out of every five people on the earth. They believe:
 - i. Jesus was born of a virgin, spoke as a baby, did many miracles, healing the sick, and raising the dead.
 - ii. They do not believe he died on the cross, but he has ascended into heaven and is waiting to come back a second time and tell the whole world that Islam is the true and final religion.

- iii. They do not believe he was the son of God, but a great prophet.
 - d. Buddhists According to the World Christian Encyclopedia, roughly 6% of the world's population is Buddhist.
 - i. Buddhists believe Jesus was a Jewish mystic similar to Buddha. They both fasted 40 days, both tempted by devil, both referred to themselves as "The Light" and taught about enlightenment, both taught forgiveness and "to love your enemy."
 - e. Hindus They make up approximately 14% of the world's population.
 - i. To them, Jesus was perfect teacher, a manifestation of God within this world, empowered for a specific purpose, but not the Godhead; just a mere man. They believe all paths lead to heaven.
 - f. Atheists make up 7% of the world's population.
 - i. They deny the existence of any god, so they see Jesus as a mere man.
 - g. All of the other minor religions of the world make up 4.4% of the world's population.
 - i. All of them from Judaism to Bahai, to Shintoism to Sikhism all deny the deity of Jesus Christ.
- 7. Satan dilutes the power of the name of Jesus.
 - a. Phil. 2:9-10 says, that the name of Jesus is above every other name, and at that name there is great power. Power to make every knee bow, and power to make every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is the Lord.
 - b. John 17, Jesus prays to the Father that He protect His people "by the power of your name- the name you gave me-so that they may be one as we are one."
 - c. Satan tries to dilute that power by defaming or slandering the name of Jesus. The third commandment of the Ten Commandments is, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." That original Hebrew word "vain" comes from a root word, "to rush over" and is defined as "to devastate, to ruin, to waste"
 - i. The media and people on the street swear using the name "Jesus Christ." They are ruining the holy name of Jesus. It is a swear word.
 - ii. Even in Muslim world, Satan will slander the name of Jesus Christ, to sow doubt into the power and authority found in that name.
- 8. Satan dilutes the effectiveness of the church.
 - a. He wants to dilute its impact on the culture where it is.
 - b. George Barna, who surveys people, found that "local churches have virtually no influence in our culture. The

seven dominant spheres of influence are: Movies, Music, television, books, the Internet, Law and family. The second tier of influencers is entities such as schools, peers, newspapers, radio and businesses.

- c. The church is having very little impact on the unchurched.
- 9. Satan dilutes the importance of world missions in the church
 - a. He keeps blinding the eyes of believers to the importance of world missions in God's word. They believe missions must not be that big a deal, or a priority or God would have talked about it more.
 - b. Most persons in the church can only name a few verses that relate directly to the Great Commission.
 - c. Patrick Johnstone says, "I would estimate that in the West, 90% of all Protestant churches, as a congregation, have no direct commitment to, or involvement with, a real live missionary." "The majority of Protestant churches are not involved in the primary task of the church (reaching the nations) either through ignorance or lack of vision.
 - d. David Mays of the EFMA says, "As a general rule, younger, newer churches have no official involvement in world evangelization. Their focus is on local outreach, not global outreach.
 - e. Satan is working hard at keeping all nations from worshiping Jesus Christ by diluting the emphasis on taking God's glory globally.
- 10. Satan seeks to distract us from delighting in God.
 - a. Luke 14:26 Jesus says in comparison to your love for God, your love for others must be so different that it seems like hatred." In other words, loving God needs to be our highest priority and no other love should come close to it.
 - b. Satan's strategy is to challenge the idea of making it our "highest priority"
 - i. Make joy in Jesus a secondary joy, not the primary joy, giving us tons of things we can rejoice in more than the Lord. He doesn't want believers to be happy in Jesus as their primary joy.
 - ii. He wants to distract us with other things, people or pleasures... those things that bring us our greatest delight.
 - iii. If Satan can distract us, he can get us to disobey the scriptures, and then we become powerless in the Christian life and are robbing God of His glory.
 - c. Satan also does this strategy by age.
 - i. For Teenagers- he gets them distracted with having a boy friend or girl friend, or movies, or sports, or

fashion, or the best grades. They rejoice in Jesus, but He is a second priority.

- ii. For young couples, it can be finding joy in their spouse, or establishing a home, buying the right house, a career. Jesus is a priority, but after all these other things.
- iii. For older couples, it can be joy found in their children, grandchildren, or working for a safe, soft comfortable retirement. They honor Jesus, but they don't want to get too religious. He wants to get their eyes off of Jesus as being their primary source of joy.

c. Conclusion

- i. Satan has three primary strategies to rob God of His glory:
 - 1. Deleting, Diluting, and Distracting.
 - 2. If he is successful, he will have robbed God of his glory through your life and through your church.
 - 3. Don't let it happen.