

How Satan and His Demons Affect You

One of Satan's temptation of Jesus is revealing:

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve." (Luke 4:5-8, ESV)

Satan intends to establish his own kingdom and oppose God. How will he do this?

1. Carefully observe these passages and search for how Satan attempts to establish his own kingdom. Circle the words that might help you with your observations. What is an idolater?

They served their idols,
which became a snare to them.

They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons; (Ps 106:36-37, ESV)

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an **idolater**), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Eph 5:5-6, ESV)

2. What method do you observe here of how Satan attempts to establish his own kingdom?

But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? (Acts 13:8-10, ESV)

And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2 Cor 11:12-15, ESV)

3. Throughout the Bible, there is never a mention that Satan can read the minds nor know the hearts of human beings. However, Satan and his demons are of the invisible world and are certainly capable of observing what you see / do and listening to whatever you may say or whisper. How does Satan and his demons tempt you to express your secret desires?

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44, ESV)

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:7-8, ESV)

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Teacher Notes

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Ask the student: what are idols? What are people doing? Use a dictionary if necessary.

Idol = an image / representation of something used for god as an object of worship.

Satan and his demons attempt to discourage the worship of God and cause the destruction of God's prized creation – man. They do so by deceiving human beings to worship demons as gods and promote such abominable practices such as child sacrifice.

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Ask the student: what is an idolater? Allow some time for the student to explore this within the context of the passage.

Idol worship is not limited to god(s); it can be anything else a person might strongly covet or spend a lot of time coveting.

Idol worship has a demonic basis, and is indirectly a worship of demons, which leads to immoral and self-destructive practices. Idols can also include objects that are less obvious that people worship such as money, houses, objects, fame, pride, and achievements in the name of the Lord.

2. What method do you observe here of how Satan attempts to establish his own kingdom?

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Ask the student: what was Elymas attempting to do? What do you observe of the situation and Paul's discernment?

Satan and his demons attempt to discourage the witness and ministry effectiveness of the Christians.

Satan and his demons work through human beings to encourage false teachers of the gospel and cause people to question and discredit the authenticity of genuine pastor / teachers.

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Ask the student: why does Satan disguise himself? Remind the student of Satan's intent at the top of the lesson. Why would deceitful workmen disguise themselves as apostles of Christ? What key words do you observe that reveals their possible motivation.

Help the student discern who is a genuine servant of righteousness by asking: who is the beneficiary?

Ask the student: what is the impact of false servants of God?

Satan and his demons attempt to blind and deceive non-Christians to the Gospel.

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Ask the student: what is the impact of telling yourself / believing in a lie?

Satan knows what your secret desire is and will tempt you to fulfill it. Believing in a lie justifies the fulfillment of a secret desire.

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Ask the student: what is the apostle John referring to, "for the devil has been sinning from the beginning?"

Satan was morally evil from the beginning of his existence and tempts all human beings to sin and disobey God in his quest to build his kingdom. Jesus Christ came to prevent this and provide a means for people to be saved from the judgment of their sins.