

Are You An Instrument of Satan?

Matthew 16:13-23

INTRODUCTION

Satan only has the power that we give him. Satan can't make you do anything as we often claim, but we often allow him to do whatever he wants in our lives. The dark side only has access to use us if we are open to be used. Anytime our will is not in alignment with God's then we are being used by Satan. So let us begin this morning by being clear that anytime we surrender to anything other than God's will in our lives, such as our own, or someone else, then we have become an instrument of Satan. We must remember:

Billy Sunday

Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his.

This morning I want us to look at a few examples and characteristics that will help us be more aware of realizing when we are being used by Satan. I want us to reflect on a text that really is a head turner. It is a text that shows that any one of us can be used by the enemy. It shows, like we spoke of last week, that often our greatest spiritual failures come just after our greatest spiritual victories.

TEXT

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But you," He asked them, "who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

And Jesus responded, "Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven."

And He gave the disciples orders to tell no one that He was the Messiah.

From then on Jesus began to point out to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to You!"

But He turned and told Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me because you're not thinking about God's concerns, but man's."

The question we must ask ourselves, ***"What are the signs in which I am being used of Satan and not of God?"***

I. Disobeying God's Commands

John 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commands.

Henry Blackaby

If you know that God loves you, you should never question a directive from Him. It will always be right and best. When He gives you a directive, you are not just to observe it, discuss it, or debate it. You are to obey it.

II. When Jesus is not the Anchor Point in our Thinking

Acts 1:6

So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, are You restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.

Charles Swindoll

Vision is the ability to see God's presence, to perceive God's power, to focus on God's plan in spite of the obstacles.

III. Getting in God's Way

A Point to Remember:

When you tell Jesus He is wrong then it is a sure sign you are on the wrong side.

IV. Distorting God's Word for Self-Will

Matthew 15:1-9

Then Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem to Jesus and asked, “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don't wash their hands when they eat!”

He answered them, “And why do you break God's commandment because of your tradition? For God said:

**Honor your father and your mother; and,
The one who speaks evil of father or mother
must be put to death.**

But you say, ‘Whoever tells his father or mother, “Whatever benefit you might have received from me is a gift committed to the temple”— he does not have to honor his father.’ In this way, you have revoked God’s word because of your tradition. Hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said:

**These people honor Me with their lips,
but their heart is far from Me.
They worship Me in vain,
teaching as doctrines the commands of men.”**

Matthew 4:5-7

Then the Devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

**He will give His angels orders concerning you,
and they will support you with their hands
so that you will not strike
your foot against a stone.”**

Jesus told him, “It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**”

V. Betraying Loyalty to Christ

Luke 22:48

While He was still speaking, suddenly a mob was there, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them. He came near Jesus to kiss Him, but Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Galatians 2:19-20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

CONCLUSION

If we never want to be used of Satan we must consider the next passage in Matthew’s flow of thought.

Matthew 16:24-28

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it. What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will reward each according to what he has done. I assure you: There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

- Jesus said to be on God’s side you must deny yourself, die to yourself
- Then Jesus took Peter up the mountain and revealed more of Himself to Peter.

May we allow God to take us up the mountain to see Him as He is not as we want Him to be or misunderstand Him to be.