

Sunday, August 21, 2022 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 103

1 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

2 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Which of these benefits from God is most precious to you right now?

3 - Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

4 - who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

5 - who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Which of these promises from God is most precious to you right now?

8 - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 - He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

10 - He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

11 - For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him

12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

14 - He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

15 - As for humans, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field.

16 - The wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

"I went from Who's Who to Who's He in 24 hours."

17 - The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

22 - Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

10-14 - Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. Just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and unable to stand up straight. Jesus called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath.

15 - The Lord answered him and said, "Ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"

Satan's Favorite Lies

Jesus said that whenever Satan lies, he is speaking his natural, native language.

If we hope to resist him, we must realize that he will not fight fair. He is a liar – a master at the guerilla warfare of deceit.

Here are five of Satan's favorite lies that he will use to try to keep you in bondage – just like he kept the woman in our Gospel lesson in bondage.

Here also are some truths from God's Word that can empower us to stand firm whenever the enemy attacks us with his lies.

1. God is holding out on you

Eve fell for this lie. Satan convinced her that there was something good that God was trying to keep from her.

Is there something happening or not happening in your life that makes you wonder if God is holding out on you? Is there something in your current circumstances that tempts you to doubt God's goodness for you?

Or do you truly believe that God meant what He said in Jeremiah 29: 11? "I know the plans I have for you; plans to help and not to hurt you; plans to give you hope and a future."

2. You do not need anyone beyond yourself

In 1 Chronicles 21:1 Satan incited David to count the number of his fighting men.

David was beginning to believe that his security lay in the size of his army rather than in his Lord.

In contrast, the prophet Zechariah wrote (4:6) – "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

As in the Twelve Step Program, we need a power outside of and greater than ourselves.

3. You will never suffer as a Christian

James 1: 2 says, "Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of any kind."

James does not say, "If you face trials." Rather he says, "When you face trials."

Trials will come. But God can use trials to help us grow – to help us become "mature and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1: 4)

4. Money is the key to happiness

Satan knows the powerful lure of money. He is well aware of how greed can take over our lives.

So Jesus said in Luke 12: 15, "Take care! Be on guard against all kinds of greed."

And Paul wrote to Timothy, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1 Timothy 6: 10)

The reef of earthly riches is not worth shipwrecking your life on.

5. You can never forgive them

Many people have been held in bondage by this lie, and for a lot longer than eighteen years.

Satan is successful in derailing many with the lie that they could not possibly forgive someone who has wounded them so severely.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2: 10-11, "Forgive and comfort the one who has offended you, in order that Satan might not outwit us, for we are not ignorant of his designs."

And he wrote in Ephesians 4: 32, "Forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Someone once said, Bitterness is drinking rat poison hoping that the rat will die.

Which of these lies are you most vulnerable to?

What Word from God could help you?

Paul told the Ephesians that our biggest battle is "not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (6: 12)

In the death and resurrection of Jesus God has already won the decisive victory over Satan and all his demons.

Until God wraps up the campaign at the end of the world, may each of us be able to resist Satan's lies by standing firm on and holding onto the truth in God's Word.