

WILES OF A WOOLY WOLF

Int.

1. Aim: To show how the devil is deceitful and tricky and we must be aware of his devices.
2. Have you ever heard of a "wooly wolf"?
 - a. Normally wolves don't have wool..sheep have wool.
 - b. Matt 7:15 speaks of "wooly wolves" "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves"
 - c. Who do you think is the "woolliest" of all the wolves? SATAN
3. Satan is a sneaky rascal - he uses the deception of sin to destroy men
 - a. Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" Wiles = Deceits, trickery
 - b. I I Cor 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" ~ designs, schemes
 - c. Makes bad things look good: Sex outside marriage, beer, drugs
 - d. Makes good things look bad: says reaching out to others isn't fun.
 - e. Makes the unimportant seem important: money, careers, homes, looks, clothes, cars, jewelry. "loved darkness rather than light"
 - f. Diversion from the mission
4. The Bible warns that Satan is a "wooly wolf" I Pet 5:8
5. We must be able to resist his deceitful cunning. To do so, let's study some of his "wiles", "schemes", "devices"

Discussion

I. "WILE" NO 1: TO DISCREDIT

- A. Satan tries to discredit everything that will lead men to God - The word discredit means to dishonor, embarrass, question
- B. He begins with God Himself
1. He suggests that God is a liar, He can't be trusted Gen 3:4 "You will not surely die."
 2. He opposes God's motives as false/unreliable, Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 3. He is questioning the truthfulness of God and Eve was deceived by this.
- C. Gets people to oppose Jesus
1. Glutton and drunkard, Mt 11:19 "The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children"
 2. Not the Son of God, I John 2:22 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son"
- D. He tries to discredit God's people
1. Job, Job 2:5 "But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face"

2. John and co-workers by Diotrephes, 3 John 10 "Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church"
3. Paul, Act 17:18 "Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. (NKJV)"

E. He tries to discredit God's Word

1. Misused scripture Matt 4:6-7
2. "Irrelevant"; "contradictory", "old-fashioned"
3. Remember what Paul wrote..I Cor 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

F. He tries to present the image that God is unreliable, His Word irrelevant, His people weird.

II. WILE #2: TO DISTRACT

A. Another tactic Satan uses is to distract from serving God.

1. Led astray from singleness of purpose...devotion,
2. 2 Cor 11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
(NKJV)

- B. He uses anything that will work to distract you
 - 1. Worries, riches, pleasures of this life, Lk 8:14
 - 2. Friends, company, family, Mt 8:21,22 weather, blizzards
 - 3. He even uses "religion" to distract (busy doing "church work")
 - a. How many "religious" people do you know who are nowhere near following Jesus and His teachings?
 - b. Many churches make a mockery of true Christianity
 - c. Satan uses them to distract from meaningful service, Mt 23:23
- C. Don't let Satan distract you with worldly or religious things.

III. WILE #3: TO DISCOURAGE

- A. Discouragement is one of Satan's most effective tools
 - 1. We get discouraged and give up
 - 2. Why try? nobody cares anyway.
- B. How does he discourage?
 - 1. By pointing out personal weaknesses ("I can't" or "they expect too much")
 - a. Singing; teaching others (tried and failed);
 - b. Overcoming sin; By pointing to sins of the brethren
 - c. Hypocrites; poor leaders; poor teachers
 - 2. Lack of results are magnified (Nobody loves me)
 - a. "I'm not growing"; "My class doesn't pay attention"
 - b. "They're not spending money right, so why give?"
- C. Don't fall prey to this device of Satan, Gal 6:9 [Give up- quit]
- D. Poem - Refused to Be Discouraged

IV. WILE #4: TO DELAY

- A. Satan says to follow the example of Felix, Act 24:24-27 "...go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."
1. There's no hurry...we'll talk about it later
 2. Two years passed, but never obeyed
- B. I don't know how many people I have talked to who have said, "I know what do to, but I'm just not ready now"
- C. God says NOW is the time for salvation, I I Cor 6:2 "For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (NKJV)
- D. Don't Delay..Don't listen to Satan.

V. HOW TO RESIST SATAN

- A. No lesson on the Wiles of Satan would be complete without something said about how to resist him.
- B. The Bible does say to resist him, Jam 4:7 How? "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
1. By submitting to God, Jam 4:7
 - a. A full cup has no room for anything else.
 - b. Submit = obey, be under, subject self unto
 2. Resist = stand against, oppose
 3. Resist him "firm faith", I Pet 5:9

C. Be sober, alert, I Pet 5:8

1. Be sober = watch
2. Be vigilant = keep awake

D. Put on the full armor of God, Eph 6:11 - Stand against = resist

E. Do not give the devil an opportunity, Eph 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil."

F. Know God's Word (Jesus' example), Matt 4:1-11 "it is written"

CONCLUSION:

1. Has Satan got a hold of your life?
2. Are you prey to the wiles of the "wooly wolf"?
 - a. To discredit?
 - b. To distract?
 - c. To discourage?
 - d. To delay?
3. Let Jesus be the Savior, Lord, Master of your life Submit to Him..and the devil will run away.