

THE DEVIL GOES FISHING

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the devil fishes among Godly people with bait that must be resisted or we will loose our soul.
2. Eccl. 9:11-12 "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race [is] not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.
12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so [are] the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."
3. We have a wrong conception or idea of the Devil
 - a. We think of him as an ugly beast, with 2 horns, long tail, wearing a red suit
 - b. He has a pitch fork in his hand to prod the people
4. The true picture or conception of the devil...
 - a. He is good looking, and talks real sweet and kind
 - b. He sometimes goes to church, being religious and even pretends to be a preacher
 - c. He can transform himself into an angel of Light - II Cor. 11:13-15
 - d. He has his own church - Synagogue of Satan - Rev. 2:9 "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and [I know] the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but [are] the synagogue of Satan." Symrna
 - e. He has his doctrines - 1 Tim. 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

5. Jesus told his disciples to be fishers of men - Mt. 4:18-19
6. The Devil and his disciples are also fishers of men
 - a. 1 Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
 - b. Adversary = an opponent
7. The devil is a most experienced fisherman for 3 reasons:
 - (1) He has a large fishing area
 - (2) He has good equipment
 - (3) He has the best bait he can obtain

Discussion

I. WHERE DOES THE DEVIL FISH ?

- A. Among righteous people
 1. He has little worry about those on his line
 - a. He does not have a lot of trouble keeping them
 - b. He's got them enslaved, and he's intending to keep them there
 - c. Rom. 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Servants to sin
 - d. He has no prospects among those who are already living for him !
 2. He fishes for people who are Godly
 - a. Job. 1:6-7 ff
 - b. Peter - Luke 22:31 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat."

- c. We are his prospects, we are the ones he desires to get on his line
- B. He fishes among the Young people
 - 1. They are not committed yet
 - 2. Young people have not had as much experience and he's very crafty
 - 3. It's better to get them while they're young and it's easier to keep them
- C. Open season all year
 - 1. Job. 2:2 "And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."
 - 2. 1 Pet. 5:8 "Devour" = gulp down, swallow, thus to destroy

II. WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT DOES HE HAVE ?

- A. He has the very best
 - 1. II Cor. 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
 - 2. Devices = "Schemes" "Designs"
 - 3. The devil uses every means and trick he knows to help make his catch
- B. His Hooks are his:
 - 1. Teachers - 2 Cor. 11:13-15
 - 2. Children -
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:33 -NKJV "Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
(ASV) "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals."
 - b. Acts 13:10 "...thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness..."

- C. The Devil has his disciples to be fishers of men also !
 - 1. Evil people recruit others to help them in their evil
 - 2. The sinner delights to have a Christian fall into sin

III. WHAT KIND OF BAIT DOES HE USE ?

- A. He has a variety
 - 1. He has an abundance of various kinds of bait
 - 2. He knows when to use the bait that is the best for the person
- B. His hooks are baited with:
 - 1. **IGNORANCE**
 - a. He wants us to be ignorant of God and His word
 - b. He would have us to believe that ignorance is bliss
 - c. He makes some think that if they learn too much they'll be expected to work
 - d. Hos. 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."
 - e. Rom. 10:3 "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."
 - f. Eph. 4:17-19
 - g. Ignorance is one of the Devil's best baits for it catches many souls !
 - h. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

2. Laziness

- a. The devil wants people to look for the easy way - just do the least -
- b. He wants people to do as little as possible - be lazy -
- c. Partial obedience is fine with the devil - just pick out the commands you want to obey then forget the rest - because the devil understand that partial obedience is really disobedience
- d. 1 Sam. 15:22 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams.”
 - (1) Saul obeyed part of the commands
 - (2) But he chose to disobey - ignore the others
- e. It is easier to just do part of the commands. This is laziness
- f. This bait of laziness, the easy way, partial obedience has hooked many souls

3. Deception

- a. The devil tells people that good will come if they'll do this when in reality only bad will result
- b. He makes people think that the bad is good for them
 - (1) Gen. 3:3-5 - with Adam and Eve he used this bait
 - (2) Rev. 12:9 talks about the devil and describes him as “..the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world..”
- c. 2 Thes. 3:9-10

- d. Satan tried to deceive Christ - Matt. 4
 - (1) Bread from stones
 - (2) Shalt not tempt God
 - (3) Worship the Lord thy God
- e. Satan is still trying to deceive us and is successful in deceiving many souls today.

4. Neglectfulness

- a. The devil lures us to be neglectful in living the Christian life
- b. He likes us to be neglectful in:
 - (1) Attendance - Heb. 10:25
 - (2) Visiting the sick - Jas. 1:27
 - (3) Teaching - Mt. 28:18-20 1 Tim. 4:11
 - (4) Being a good example - Mt. 5:16 - 1 Tim. 4:12
- c. The devil knows if we keep putting things off, most of them will never be done
- d. Eccl. 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
- e. Many are swallowing the bait of neglectfulness and losing their soul !

5. Greediness [love of money]

- a. The devil knows that the love of money leads to many sins
- b. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 (NKJV) "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all [kinds] [of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
- c. He lures us into thinking that money and possession are the purpose of life!
- d. When the devil gets a person to be greedy and covetousness then he's made another catch!

6. Selfishness

- a. People who are selfish do not have love for others but for self only.
- b. Satan tells us to love self supremely
- c. Jn. 13:35 (NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- d. A selfish person is hooked for the Devil

7. Immodest clothing

- a. Satan wants you to swallow the bait of...
 - (1) Everyone else is wearing it
 - (2) It's much cooler
 - (3) It's not my fault if other's lust after me, it's their dirty mind.
- b. If you reason and think in this way then you are caught !

- c. God tells us 1 Tim. 2:9-10 (NKJV) "in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."
- d. If we cause others to sin, then we also have sinned - Rom. 14:13 "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in [his] brother's way."
- e. Many souls will be lost because the devil tricked them into believing that immodest clothing was not immodest

8. Grumbling

- a. The devil would like for us to grumble about the good that is done. This will help his cause very much
- b. 1 Cor. 10:10 "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."
- c. Grumblers are hooked into working for the Devil.

Conclusion

- 1. The Devil goes Fishing:
 - a. He has a large fishing area - the whole world - but the righteous are his prospects
 - b. He has the best equipment - devices such as his teachers and his children
 - c. Then he uses the best bait available:
 - (1) Ignorance Laziness
 - (2) Deception Neglectfulness
 - (3) Greediness Selfishness
 - (4) Immodest clothing Grumbling

2. The Devil has one weakness - he can't stand it if he does not get a nibble
 - a. If we will resist him completely he'll get discouraged and leave
 - b. Jas. 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - (1) Resist - to stand against, oppose
 - (2) Flee - vanish, escape, flee away
 - c. But beware, he'll be back!
3. Therefore we must always stand fast in the faith and resist the temptations lest the devil catch us
4. 1 Cor. 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (NKJV)
"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."
5. The devil wants those he catches to spend eternity with him - Mt. 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"
6. Obey God and be faithful to Him or you'll be caught by the Devil, because the Devil is fishing for your soul !