



THE INVISIBLE WAR

PART 5

Sermon Overview

Scripture tells us that despite our earthly circumstances, we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Satan attempts to lure believers to his level by attacking three areas of life. The temptation of Christ in the desert showcase how Satan attacks these areas, and how Christians should respond.

PART FIVE

Scripture tells us that despite our earthly circumstances, we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. We are heirs to an everlasting kingdom, and have the advantage over Satan's forces.

Satan tries to lure believers to descend to his level through disobedience to God's Word. If he can make believers forget who they are in Christ, he will try to neutralize them. His attacks cover three areas of a believer's life: The Lust of the Flesh, The Lust of the Eye, The Pride of Life.

The temptation of Christ in the desert showcase how Satan attacks these areas of life, and how Christians should respond.

THE LUST OF THE FLESH: SATISFYING OUR APPETITES

In Matthew 4:1-3, Satan tempts Jesus to break His 40-day fast before the Father's timing by turning stones into bread.

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

MATTHEW 4:1-3

Satan did not deny Christ's divinity, but subtly tempted Him to disobey the Father by satisfying His earthly appetite. Jesus's response was to confirm His commitment to the Father through Scripture:

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

MATTHEW 4:4

When Satan appeals to our desires, we should give him the same Scripture in return.

THE LUST OF THE EYE: CRAVING WHAT BELONGS TO OTHERS

In Matthew 4:5-6, Satan appeals to Jesus's ego, twisting Scripture to do so:

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

MATTHEW 4:5-6

Jesus had not yet begun His public ministry; Satan's temptation was for Jesus to start His ministry with a spectacular stunt to gain worldly support against the Father's wishes. Jesus responds with Scripture again:

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

MATTHEW 4:7

THE PRIDE OF LIFE: GIVING OURSELVES CREDIT INSTEAD OF GOD

Satan became the god and ruler of Earth when Adam sinned. Knowing that Christ is the second Adam and destined ruler of the Earth, he offers his friendship and all of the kingdoms of the world... provided that Christ subject Himself to Satan:

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

MATTHEW 4:8-9

Christ would have accomplished His mission of reclaiming Earth—at the cost of eternal separation from God. He responds to Satan with Scripture again:

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

MATTHEW 4:10

CONCLUSION

When Satan attacks us in one of these three areas, we can follow the example of our Savior by using Scripture against him.