



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Psalm 23:5 ... by Gareth

Psalm 23 vs 5: “Enemies and their submission to the Anointed”. *Thou preparest a table in the presence of my enemies.*

Sheep have many different enemies, but all serve a similar purpose, either to kill, steal from them or destroy their lives to one degree or another. Although unseen by the natural eye, Satan, the Devil, is a real person... a spirit being, with intelligence, tangible characteristics, and whose incessant goal and ambition is to “steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10).

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Regardless of whether you realize it or not, Satan has targeted you as a victim, (every believer is a victim) He knows your name and address, your strengths and weaknesses. Somewhere in the shadows, he and his forces lurk, waiting, planning for the moment they will strike when you're caught off-guard.

Satan's method of operation is almost always “undercover.” Subtly, he manipulates hindering circumstances and inspires evil thoughts or temptations, disguising his activities behind people or things. He will always seek to divert attention and blame for his actions upon others.

But make no mistake; he is the real enemy, not your husband, wife, employer, government or Christian brethren! “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

The enemies of the sheep have no rights over the sheep, because the sheep belong to the shepherd in like manner Satan has no Rightful Authority over Believers because we belong to Christ, who is the Good Shepherd.

The good news is that, although the Devil is described “like” a “roaring lion,” in reality he has no actual authority over believers. He is not really a lion, but roars “like” a lion in order to bring his victims into fear and intimidation. Satan is a liar and deceiver and uses deception as his weapon to gain advantage over those who are ignorant of the limitations of his power.

When Jesus gave his life on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world, He also redeemed us from Satan's power and dominion over us. “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 2:15) “...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). Praise God! Sat!



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE (Contd)

You have the right to use the authority of the name of Jesus to repel and drive Satan out of your territory and to break his grip over spiritual strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4). When you recognize Satan's activity, we must take authority over him in the name of Jesus! Just as Jesus and the early apostles did, command Satan to leave (Mark 16:17).

The Devil hates the name of Jesus and detests an atmosphere of praise and worship which exalts the name of Jesus. Christ said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). Be assured, the presence of Christ will expel the presence of Satan. Lifting up Jesus in praise will send the Devil running!

The presence of the shepherd will cause the sheep's enemies to flee. But the sheep's enemies won't give up they will try to come at a time when they hope the sheep has strayed too far from the shepherd

Slam the Door on the Devil

The name of Jesus will drive Satan away. But it would be futile to order Satan's departure if we leave the door wide open for him to flourish. The Bible tells us to not "give place" for the Devil (Eph. 4:27). That is, provide no area of your life where Satan can be comfortable or establish strongholds.

The enemy can always be found working in those who entertain sin, disobedience, rebellion or a self-willed nature. Unforgiveness toward others is another area which Satan flourishes (2 Cor. 2:11). Furthermore, any area of your life which is not submitted to God is considered open territory to the Devil, and he has the right to bring his expanding influence to those areas.

This is why the scripture says, "...submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The only way to actually resist Satan is to submit yourself fully to God. This was what Jesus was referring to when He said, "...the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (John 14:30). Jesus had submitted himself to God, and although the Devil would try Him, there was nothing for the Devil to use to gain an advantage.

Rejoice Christian! God is in you and YOU have been given power over the Devil! By submitting to God, and exer-

Events /Notices