

**"The Clash of Two Kingdoms"**  
Matthew 4:1-11, Deuteronomy 6:13-19  
March 19, 2017

**<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.**

**<sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."**

**<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"**

**<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him.**

1. Satan continually tempts us to worship false gods.

Psalm 96:4-5 **For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.**

I Corinthians 10:20-21 **No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.**

- When we worship our tastes in worship, we worship other gods – ourselves.
- Anything that would distract us from the worship of the one true God is ultimately diabolical.

2. The devil has authority in this world.

Luke 4:6 **And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.**

II Corinthians 4:4 **The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

Ephesians 2:1-2 **As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.**

Ephesians 6:12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

- "There's an intelligence behind pornography."
- And Isis, and racism, and political extremism – both conservative and liberal.
- Sexual confusion (Time Magazine)

3. The devil's purposes are always evil.

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

- It is harmful to worship false gods because our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- When we try to do the Lord's work the Devil's way, the Devil wins a victory.

4. Jesus took authority over Satan.

Matthew 4:10a, 11a <sup>10</sup> *Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! ..." <sup>11</sup> "Then the devil left Him ...*

Job 1:12, 2:6 <sup>1:12</sup> *The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." ... 2:6 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."*

Mark 1:23-24 *Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"*

James 2:19 *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

- Not dualism
- The devil is inferior. A Creature. God sets his limits.

5. Jesus gives us authority over Satan.

Matthew 10:1 *Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

Luke 10:17-19 *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."<sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

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- The war to end all wars is going on right now.
- More horrible than Iraq or Viet Nam or Korea or WWII.
- It is the war in the spiritual realm: the war between good and evil.
- All earthly wars are just a reflection of that great cosmic conflict.
- The temptations of Jesus were a very crucial battle in this struggle. Pivotal.
- The Prince of Darkness and the Prince of Peace meet face to face.
- It is the clash of two kingdoms.
- Imagine what happens if Satan wins!
- And in Matthew’s Gospel this conflict comes to a head in the third temptation.

***Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”***

***<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”***

***11 Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him.***

- The devil left Him, but the war isn’t over.
- Luke says the devil left Him “until an opportune time.”
- The decisive battle was the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- That was D-Day. Christ has won the victory, but serious skirmishes continue.
- You and I are still on the battlefield.

1. Satan continually tempts us the same way he tempted Jesus, to worship false gods.

Exodus 20:3-6 ***"You shall have no other gods before me.***

***4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.***

- in our culture, we are tempted to be tolerant of all religions.
- We must never be hateful, or even disrespectful,
- but not all religions are true.

Psalm 96:4-5 ***For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.***

- Gospel presentation. No other way to be saved.
- When people worship false gods, they are falling into Satan's trap.
- When we worship other gods we fall into the devil's trap.
  - Whether we worship Shiva or Allah or the dieties of other religions,
  - Or our political or philosophical convictions
  - Or our comfort or conveniences
  - Or our appetites for food, sex, power, revenge etc.
  - We falling to the devil's temptation to worship him.
- When we worship our tastes in worship, we worship other gods – ourselves.
- And worshipping idols is not neutral.

I Corinthians 10:20-21 ***No, but the sacrifices of pagans (i.e. food sacrificed to idols) are offered to demons, not to God,***

***and I do not want you to be participants with demons.  
21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of  
demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's  
table and the table of demons.***

- Anything that would distract us from the worship of the one true God is ultimately diabolical.

- Now, when Satan offered to give Jesus the kingdoms of this world, was he bluffing?

2. The devil has authority in this world.

Luke 4:6 ***And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.***

II Corinthians 4:4 ***The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

Ephesians 2:1-2 ***As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.***

Ephesians 6:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

- First, this has to do with political "kingdoms of the world."
- But also spiritual realms like greed, crime, addiction, human trafficking ...
- "There's an intelligence behind pornography."
- And Isis, and racism, and political extremism – both conservative and liberal.
- Sexual confusion (Time Magazine)

3. The devil's purposes are always evil.

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

- It is harmful to worship false gods because our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- When we try to do the Lord's work the Devil's way, the Devil wins a victory.

4. Jesus exercised authority over Satan.

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James 2:19 ***You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.***

- "This is my Father's world, O let me never forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet."

5. Jesus gives us authority over Satan.

Matthew 10:1 ***Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to***

**heal every disease and sickness.**

**Luke 10:17-19** *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."*<sup>18</sup> **He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.**

- You and I can say, "Away with you, Satan." Or "Be gone, Satan."
- We have authority over the devil.
- We have authority to overcome his temptations in our own lives.
- Both the immediate temptations to indulge certain impulses
- And the long range temptations to hold on to attitudes that cater to our tastes and appetites.
- Addictions: What medical science and psychology has learned about addictions is helpful and true,
  - but it isn't the whole truth.
  - There are often evil spirits involved.
  - And we have authority to cast them out.
- **In the name of Jesus Christ I now take authority over Satan and any of his minions that are harassing this congregation or any of the people present, and in the name of Jesus Christ, and with His authority, I command you to be gone.**
- **Away with you, Satan!**
- If you need further prayer ministry in that regard, join us tonight at 5.
  
- The war to end all wars is going on right now.
- You and I are in the midst of it.
- We are soldiers.
- The victory has already been won!
- We who follow Christ share in His victory.
- For He has won the Clash of Two Kingdoms.