

THE BOOK OF JOB
“Satan’s Tactics”
Text: Job 1:4-2:10

Key Word: Tactics

Key Thought: Satan Uses Evil Tactics to Tempt Those who Faithfully Serve the LORD.

Today I want to focus upon the cruel tactics that Satan. The Book of Job There is a new term that has been floating around these days called “**gaslighting**” which is a psychological tactic of manipulation that attempts and often succeeds to question someone’s sanity, memories and even their perception of reality. We’ve got to spiritually mature and often “**doubt our doubts**” instead of questioning what we know to be true.

I realize this is NOT easy to do! That is the main reason why I’m delving into this area. The church has been swallowing the wrong pill and has been getting sicker and often just keeps doing the same old thing. We love to hear messages of totally overcoming the works of the devil but we evade sermons that focus upon the struggles to reach that point.

Jesus pointed out that the road we travel upon is both narrow and straight. We must be very careful when we come to a fork in the road. We tell ourselves that all we need to do is retrace our steps and once we get to fork again we simply have to take the other road. The problem is that we may not have enough strength and motivation to do that. Don’t forget that there is an enemy of our soul who tries to make the wrong road look intriguing and refaces one lie with another one until we have few options left.

There is a common motif in Russian folk tales, where a Russian knight comes to a fork in the road and sees a large upright standing stone (menhir) with an inscription that reads: *“If you ride to the left, you will lose your horse, if you ride to the right, you will lose your head.”*

Robert Frost is known for his poem “**The Road Not Taken**” that he published in the August 1915 issue of the Atlantic Monthly. The last few lines are what we generally remember.

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*

I would suggest that this is a simple way of explaining the Book of Job. So in this sermon I want to focus in upon . . .

I. JOB’S SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND SACRIFICE (Job 1:4-5,20-22; 2:9,10)

II. JEHOVAH’S COMPARISON & CHALLENGE (Job 1:8,12; 2:3)

III. SATAN’S ACCUSATION AND ACTION (Job 1:9-11,13-19; 2:4-8)

I. JOB'S SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND SACRIFICE (Job 1:4-5,20-22; 2:9,10)

Something I want everyone to keep in mind as we begin today is that the trials and troubles that Job went through didn't make him spiritually mature - He already was well grounded in his spiritual maturity and that is why he was tried and tested to such a deep level. This may come as a shock for those who have been chasing after the "the milk and pabulum teaching" instead of the richness and protein found in the meat of the Word (I Corinthians 3:21).

Job couldn't have been told about the story of Moses being called up to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. He was told several times to make sure the people were consecrated (Exodus 19:10,14,21-25). He had the Law of God written upon his heart before they were given to Moses. Anyone who has raised children knows that we can't always trust what they say.

*"We will do everything the LORD has said' So
Moses brought their answer back to the LORD."*

Exodus 19:8

"Talk is cheap. Words are plentiful. Deeds are precious."

H Ross Perot
Former US Presidential Candidate

Job consecrated his children after their time of feasting.

*"When a period of feasting had run its course, Job
would make arrangements for them to be purified.
Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt
offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my
children have sinned and cursed God in their
hearts." This was Job's regular custom."*

Job 1:5

After losing his oxen, donkeys, servants (except one); then losing all his sheep and servants (except one); followed by losing all his camels and servants (except one) and finally losing his seven sons and three daughters with only one servant spared Job humbled himself and worshipped God.

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked
I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has
taken away; may the name of the LORD be
praised."
22. In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with
wrongdoing."*

Job 1:21,22

II. JEHOVAH'S COMPARISON & CHALLENGE (Job 1:8,12; 2:3)

The LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) admired Job for the life he lived. The LORD was not ashamed to proclaim that message to the angels and Satan who came “*to present themselves*” before the LORD. These angels were also referred to in Scripture as “*the sons of God*” as well as “*ministering spirits*” and even “*messengers of God.*” They may have done this on a regular basis to receive their next mission.

Remember a third of them fell from heaven when Lucifer was cast to the earth for sinning in heaven. **These angels mentioned in the Book of Job chose to remain faithful to God.** Satan came before the LORD WITH THEM. They did NOT come WITH SATAN. He tagged along perhaps trying to deceive them as well.

So that is why it is so notable for God to speak these words about Job who was born with a sinful seed along with his children.

“Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

Job 1:8

Even after Satan was allowed to destroy everything Job owned, the LORD once again said,

“Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.’”

Job 2:3

How would you and I compare to Job if God evaluated us before Satan? I remember Pastor Jake Toews telling me in Fort McMurray after he was so appreciated and admired among our congregation.

“Beware when people speak well of you.”

Shortly after those words of admiration he went through a deep depression. He had never experienced health problems ever before in his entire life. His wife Lorie told us years later that one night they were woke from their sleep and could see and hear demons mocking him. She couldn't tell us this for years because she wondered if we could believe her. It stunned Pastor Sharon and I along with our elders and their wives. Tears came down our cheeks.

III. SATAN'S ACCUSATION AND ACTION (Job 1:9-11,13-19; 2:4-8)

The name “**Satan**” means “*the adversary.*” He is also named “*the Devil or Slanderer; the old Serpent; the Great Dragon; the Tempter; the Wicked One; Beelzebub; Apollyon as well as the Prince and the god of this world.*”

Jesus referred to him as “*a murderer from the beginning, a liar and the father of all lies*” (John 8:44) and “*a thief*” (John 10:10). Paul wrote that “*he has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel*” (II Corinthians 4:4). Paul also warned the early church “*for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*” (II Corinthians 11:14).

The devil despises the true children of God who prosper by obeying God and His Word. He hates the thought of people obeying God and trusting in Him. He can't stand true worship from our heart. He continues to try to replace it with self worship and human pride. There are many (not all) mega church pastors who have compromised the Word of God and sold their souls to the devil. They are the blind leading the blind. They are satanically led and empowered. They pronounce half-truths which are no replacement for the honour of Jesus who is “The way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

Satan is like Judas who “*dwelt among the disciples.*” There is no place on earth that is too holy to keep him and his evil spirits from intruding. He presents himself to distract our thoughts, defile our imaginations and harden our hearts. He can NEVER be saved from his sin because he never will admit to it. He has an army of cohorts that follow his example in governments, financial institutions, educational systems and army leaders. He continues

“ . . . roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

Job 1:7; 2:2

Even Arab people referred to him as “The Active” and even “The Zealous one.” He continues to do everything he can to keep everyone from surrendering their allegiance to God and being guided by the Holy Word of God. It is good men and women that he pays attention to and spues out malice against them. He continues to have us question our beliefs and insinuates horrible accusations that his followers continue to do. He hates to be challenged with truth and those who serve him “practise what he preaches.” Evil people judge others by themselves. He rejoices when God's people are accused of being a hypocrite.

Satan is NOT an atheist. He knows and believes there is Only One God. His prayers are filled with malice. He is NOT loving. He strives to tempt people to lust after one another. The best way to keep him down is to lift Jesus up in all we say and do. Job gave us an example to follow. Are you journeying on the road less travelled? I hope and pray you are!

C:\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.23\The Book of Job\Job 1_4.2_10.wpd

Date: Feb 5/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Faithful One - D or E

THE BOOK OF JOB
“Satan’s Tactics”
Text: Job 1:4-2:10

Key Word: Tactics

Key Thought: Satan Uses Evil Tactics to Tempt Those who Faithfully Serve the LORD.

I. JOB’S SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND SACRIFICE (Job 1:4-5,20-22; 2:9,10)

I Corinthians 3:21; Exodus 19:10,14,21-25; Exodus 19:8; Job 1:5; Job 1:21,22

II. JEHOVAH’S COMPARISON & CHALLENGE (Job 1:8,12; 2:3) - Job 1:8; Job 2:3

III. SATAN’S ACCUSATION AND ACTION (Job 1:9-11,13-19; 2:4-8)

The name “Satan” means *“the adversary.”* He is also named *“the Devil or Slanderer; the old Serpent; the Great Dragon; the Tempter; the Wicked One; Beelzebub; Apollyon as well as the Prince and the god of this world.”*

Jesus referred to him as *“a murderer from the beginning, a liar and the father of all lies”* (John 8:44) and *“a thief”* (John 10:10). Paul wrote that *“he has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel”* (II Corinthians 4:4). Paul also warned the early church *“for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light”* (II Corinthians 11:14).

John 14:6; Job 1:7; 2:2