



## 2019 August Series: Made Well

### Message #3: The Simple Story of Satan's Defeat

#### Getting the Nod:

##### Drama Skit: **Get Up and Walk**

**What a powerful story!** A paralytic **whose friends care so much** that they are willing to deconstruct a stranger's **roof** and pay for it later... but knowing that Jesus could touch their friend... did it anyway. And then to **imagine the facial expressions** of those crowded in that room when they saw Jesus not only heal him... but save him, too! **What a story. What a black eye to the devil.** I am convinced that the healed paralytic **told his story hundreds of times** in the next few month... and I am also convinced that Jesus' ministry expanded because of that one man's TESTIMONY!

**Have you thought about the power of a testimony?** What if we had each person that witnessed the resurrected Lord come up here this morning and talk for 15 minutes giving their testimony to us on what they saw? If we listened to the testimony of all the people that Jesus appeared to, we would be here all day, and all night, and Monday and Monday night and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and **sometime early Friday morning** they would just be wrapping up the testimony time. It would take over 128 straight hours just to hear, for 15 minutes each, the testimony of those that saw the Lord after he rose. **And yet... think of how much that would impact how we would worship in our next Sunday service!**

**Transition: Sharing our testimonies would be something we do... it is a VERB!** Something we do to not only encourage others to stay faithful... but to also gain victory over the devil's attempts to frustrate us!

#### Connecting Us:

**What good does our testimonies do?** Is it just for information and a good coffee table discussion... or is it more? **Everyone who has found Christ as their Savior has a testimony.**

Does that testimony have value... or can it make a difference in someone else's life? Or maybe the question is... **have we lost the remarkable purpose of our testimonies?**

**Transition:** I would like to answer those questions partially this morning. **Our testimonies are weapons against the one who steals the souls of men. They defeat and frustrate the devil!!! Look at Revelation 12:11-12...**

#### God's Take on the Power of a Testimony:

NKJV | Re 12:11-12 **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.** 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

This chapter is a description of the defeat of Satan. There are three visions mentioned:

#### The Three Visions on Satan's Defeat:

1. **Satan's failed opportunity**
2. **Satan thrown down**
3. **Satan's declared war and devastating defeat**

All three of these visions tell one story. The dominant theme is the defeat of Satan. **You might say he has struck out.**

- **Strike one—He fails in his attempt to devour Christ**, who instead was snatched up by God.
- **Strike two—He fails to defeat Michael and his angels** and instead is hurled down to earth.
- **Strike three—He fails in his attempts to destroy the woman, who was rescued by God.** Though the crucial battle has been won through the work of Christ, Satan continues to harass the people of God. I would like to step back from this and make three observations that will help us understand how this applies to us.

### **Three Realities on Overcoming Satan**

#### **1. We are in a cosmic battle**

- The first thing that jumps out at us is the simple truth that we're in a **cosmic battle** that's been going on through the ages between Satan and God.
- **Don't get this wrong. It's not like Satan is God's equal.** It's not like the two are fighting it out like two brothers and we're not sure who will win. Satan is nothing more than a created being; a fallen angel.
- For some reason we can't completely comprehend why God puts up with him for a time. Meanwhile, we're caught up in the battle.
- **C.S. Lewis said we can fall into two equal and opposite errors concerning the devil.** We can either **take him far too seriously or not take him seriously enough.** The devil is happy with both a Christian whose mind is preoccupied with him all day long and with one who hardly gives him a thought.
- **Most of us in the American church fall into the latter error—we don't take him seriously enough.** We must understand he's living. He's crafty. We wonder why there is so much violence on our streets and in our homes. Why there's terror in the world. Why so much greed. Why our sexuality is so bent. Why there is disease and chaos. **It's him!**
- **The main thing is he's out to hurt Christ and Christ's cause.** You personally are of no interest to him. It's only in your relationship with Christ and his cause that he cares about you and will pay attention to you.
- **Before you became a Christian**, his main interest was to **blind you to the truth** about Christ and to seduce you further into his own terrain. Now he'll do everything he can to **render you ineffective** for Christ and his cause.
- **There are several ways he works, which are seen right here in this story. He tempts, he accuses, he deceives, and he devours. You will be tempted. The kinds of temptation will change for each person and for each stage of your life. He knows how to push your buttons.**
- **It might be the compromising need for a relationship, or the desire to achieve at all cost, or the lust for more things.** Temptation will never go away, whether you're 14 or 40 or 84.

- **Satan comes to us like Judas, with a kiss; or the forbidden fruit seemed good and desirable to Adam and Eve;** yet it cast them out of Eden. Or **Walking idly on his palace roof seemed harmless enough to David;** yet it ended in adultery and murder. This is a real battle!!!
- **Luther said you can't stop birds flying about your head, but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair.**
- **Listen:** Paul describes Satan as the "the god of this world who has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ ..." (2 Cor. 4:4).
- **He is seeking to devour you.** That's what he tried to do to Christ and to the woman and that is what he wants to do with us who follow Christ.
- **Jesus called him a murderer.** If he can't kill you, he will harm you. But just remember... Satan can't hurt you unless God allows it, but he will try.

## 2. **The Second Observation: Satan is already a defeated foe.**

- **Because of the work of Christ,** Satan is a defeated foe who lashes out at God's people.
- Don't miss this! According to this story, **why is Satan down here? Why is he so mad? Why is he furiously chasing after and harassing the woman and her offspring? Because he's a loser!** Because he couldn't defeat Christ, and he can't devour Christ's people.
- **That's why Martin Luther could sing, "And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us."**
- **Let me encourage you, take Satan into account, respect the damage he can do, beware of him, but do not fear him. He shudders at the name of Jesus.**
- Whether he seeks to tempt you, or deceive you, or accuse you, or devour you, God will always provide a way of escape.

## 3. **The Third Observation: God's people overcome Him in three ways.**

NKJV | Re 12:11-12 **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

- The Blood of the Lamb**
- The testimony of each believer**
- The love of the Lord over the world**

- The last observation I want to make is that God's people will prevail through the blood of the lamb, the word of their testimony, and not loving their lives unto death.
- **We prevail through the blood of the lamb.** John is telling us here that **we overcome the devil through the death of Jesus.** The blood of the lamb is that which Jesus shed for all of our sins.
- **That same blood cleanses our conscience (Heb. 9:14).. Nothing you do for God is enough to pay for your sins and give you a clear conscience;** only the blood of Jesus will do.
- **We also prevail through the word of our testimony and not loving our lives even when faced with death.** What does that mean? **It means that our testimonies are mighty weapons in the cosmic war of righteousness.**

- **Our stories of salvation and rescue and deliverance are a part of defeating the enemy.**
- **And when we do not prefer the world over Jesus... it reinforces that testimony to win the battle.**

**Transition:** So, before we turn the rest of the service over to our own Heritage Family and their cardboard testimonies... let me challenge us all to turn our own testimonies into verbs... not just nouns... but use them to defeat the devil!!!

### **Our Response:**

#### **How to Use Your Testimony for Christ:**

1. **Share where you were** so people can relate.
2. **Share where Christ has brought you** so people can find hope.
3. **Share the joy that you have found** so people can hunger for it.

**Transition:** **Let us rejoice in what Jesus has done!!!!**

### **Transition to Cardboard Testimonies:**

**After the Drama skit, those with a cardboard testimony will assemble in the west side hallway and be ready to share their story. They shall remain lined up along the front of the platform.**

**Pastor Dan will read each testimony for those who cannot read the testimonies...**

**After the testimonies are complete, we shall end the services with a song of celebration:**

**8:45: Victory in Jesus**

**11:00: TBD**