

Enemies of the Heart

Lesson 5- Pride

We are going through a lot of scriptures today. I believe the scripture is going to teach us what we need to hear.

Luke 22, Job 1, 1 Kings 22

I want to answer to questions in this message:

Do we ever as believers grant Satan permission to against us or take us bondage?

Does God ever grant Satan permission to come against us or to put us in bondage?

Satan is a thief and he comes to destroy and he is always trying to come in through an open door. Satan can't come in without an open door.

The **number one area** for **opening up a door to Satan** in your life is **pride**.

It is amazing to me that when we talk about pride, many people are proud that they don't have pride.

Today, we are going to deal with the enemy of pride.

The original sin was pride - committed by Lucifer. He was a worship leader. Leaders are very susceptible to pride, because we lead people into the presence of God.

3 definitions for pride:

1. Trusting in your own strength
2. Trusting in your own righteousness
3. Trusting in your own wisdom

1. Trusting in your own strength

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, " Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

A. Satan has ask for you.

1. The New Testament was written in Greek. Many times the Greek language will have 3 or 4 words for one or our English words.
This particular Greek word for ask is not the normal usage of the word. It literally implies that he asked and received what he had ask for. He had already ask for something with success.
2. If you look this word up, it literally implies that ***“he demanded”*** because ***he had the right to sift Peter*** as wheat.
3. We all know Satan can't demand anything from God, unless we have given him permission to do so.
4. Peter had opened the door to Satan in his life through pride, so it gave Satan permission to come in.

B. Peter opened the door with pride

Luke doesn't actually record the conversation that happened right before this, but Matthew, Mark and John do record it.

1. **Mark 14:27-31**

Then Jesus said to them, “ All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written, I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered. ’ “ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee. Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.

- a. Maybe Jesus wanted to say, what part of “all” do you not understand. Peter said, “not me.” Maybe these weaklings, but not me.
- b. Jesus says, “there is a prophecy in the Old Testament, that says you will.” Peter got even more arrogant and said, “oh no, not me.”

2. **Matthew 16:21-23**

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took

Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.

C. When they came to arrest Jesus, one of the disciples tried to fight the soldiers with a sword. Do you want to guess which one it was. It was Peter. He tried to fight the soldiers with a sword he trusted in his own strength.

D. This same man who tries to take on an entire garrison of soldiers, denies Jesus that same day to a teenage waitress. He trusted in his own strength.

E. **1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

2. Pride is also trusting in your own righteousness

Job 1:6-12

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

When you read this passage by itself, it is a little difficult to understand, but when you read the entire book, it makes more sense. Job has 3 friends who show up and they keep asking him questions. **They are not good**

comforters but they keep asking him the question, ***“Job have you done anything in your life that opened a door to Satan.”*** Job keeps defending himself with his righteousness.

A. Elihu, a young man, has sat there for 3 days and said nothing, but all of a sudden got mad at Job. Listen to why he got mad.

Job 32:1-2

So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God.

B. Elihu is still speaking in **Job 33:8-9**

“Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of your words, saying, “I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me.”

Elihu ends his speaking in **Job 36:3** by saying, **“I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.”**

C. Job continued to say he was righteousness. He never ascribed his righteousness to God, he ascribed it to his right living.

D. He saw himself as better than others, because he did right things. Mature believers fall prey to pride in this area. We all know when we get saved that we are not righteous except through Jesus. But later in our walk, we get on a spiritual ego trip because we do a few things well for the Lord and we think the things we do now make us righteous. Our righteousness is not from doing right things, it comes from the righteousness of Christ. It comes from Christ and Christ alone.

When you begin to trust in your own righteousness, it's pride.

E. Jesus tells the story of a Pharisee that came to the church and prayed

this prayer, “thank you God that I am not like others. He was righteous in his own eyes because of his gifting, talent or a few things he did well.” Job kept saying, compare me to other men and see if I'm not righteous.

- F. But **the problem** with Job’s righteousness came **when God showed up** to the meeting. He had heard enough. Ok Job, you want to compare yourself, why don’t you compare yourself to me.

Job 38:1-4

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! (God’s sarcasm) Or who stretched the line upon it.”

Job 38:12

Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place?

**Job 38:18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth?
Tell Me, if you know all this.**

Job 38:24

**By what way is light diffused? Or the east wind scattered over the earth?
earth?**

Job 38: 34-35

34 Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you? 35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, “Here we are.” (One version says, does lightening come to your throne and ask you where to strike?)

This goes on for 3 chapter in the Bible. God ask Job a total of 48 questions?

Job 40:8

Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Job repented and Satan had to leave. Job has lost almost everything, but God restored it back to him and gave him twice as much.

3. Pride is trusting in your own wisdom

This is one of the most amazing revelations you will ever see in your Bible.

A. 1 Kings 22

Jezebel has 850 prophets on the payroll that won't disagree with him. Ahab has 400 prophets on his payroll that will only tell him good things. Many leaders who are filled with pride, keep people around them who will not disagree with them, so they can be right all the time. That is pride.

Ahab is the King of Israel he ask the ask the King Jehoshaphat to King of Judah to come and visit him. Jehoshaphat is a good king. Ahab's idea is that they join forces and go take back the city of Ramoth –Gilead from Syria. Jehoshaphat says, "Let's ask a prophet." So Ahab calls his 400 on his payroll prophets together to advise them. They all say, "sure, go ahead." Jehoshaphat says, do you have any prophet who can hear from the Lord. This is where we pick up our story in the Bible.

1 Kings 22:7-8

And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of Him?" So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, " There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

Who do you have in your life who can say to you, "You shouldn't say those things?" Pride filled people surround themselves with people who will only tell them what they want to hear and with people who will not correct them.

They had to go get him out of prison, because Ahab had him put in prison 3 years earlier because he wouldn't prophesy good things.

1 Kings 22:15-17

15 Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, " Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, " Go and prosper, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king!" **16** So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" **17** Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the Lord said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace. '"

He was basically saying, if you go, you will be killed in battle.

19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left."

1. All the host but on the RIGHT and on the LEFT
This is referring to the good angels and the fallen angels.

1 Kings 22:20 And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead? ' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. **21** Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him. ' **22** The Lord said to him, 'In what way? ' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit (this is an evil spirit) in the mouth of all his prophets. ' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so. ' **23** Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you.

I want you to see who is in control. God is in control. There is no battle between God and Satan. They are asking permission based upon the rights we give them.

D. Some people says, a demon can't live where God lives. Here is the

problem with that theology. God is omnipresent. Another problem with that is here are demons standing in the presence of God asking permission. Demons can come into your life and oppress you if you open the door. When you sin, you open a door to the enemy and God may grant permission to the enemies request to sift you like wheat.

E. But here was the problem, Ahab trusted in his own wisdom and it opened a door to the devil.

F. I have tried to give counsel to people who were filled with pride and the problem is you can't teach them. They think they are smarter than you and know more than you and they won't listen to instruction.

When you won't follow Gods wisdom, God will turn you over to Satan so that you can fall in your pride and repent. In all three incidences, God gave Satan permission to enter the doors they had opened.

G. **Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.** (We misquote this – we say pride before a fall.)

H. **Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.**

I. **God releases you to your enemy to KEEP YOU from being destroyed.**

Illust – It's like pushing someone out of the way of an on coming bus. They will fall down and get hurt, but they won't be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Peter repented and became a pillar in the church.

Job repented and received double.

Ahab doesn't repent and is destroyed. (Tell Ahab's plan to outsmart God.)

1 Kings 22:34

Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

Pride is a trap that the strong, the righteous and the wise can fall into.

Altar call