

## Judges 8 - Schemes of the evil one

---

### We need to be not ignorant of his schemes

In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul assumes that we know Satan's schemes.

1. Pastor Don said that learning about the Satan's scheme's is not a reflexive knowledge, rather it's a taught knowledge. What does Don mean by this?

I (Pastor Andrew) think its fair to describe Emmanuel as a conservative, evangelical church. In my experience, conservative, evangelical churches can almost operate in a state of denial about spiritual warfare. We tend not to talk about the subject unless forced to, and then we speak with discomfort and with little confidence.

2. Would you agree with that description?
3. How does that fit in with 2 Corinthian 2:11 "...for we are not ignorant of his schemes"
4. What are the pros and cons to such an approach?
5. How would you describe your working knowledge of Satan and his attacks?

Let's do a brief survey on some passages that teach us about Satan's schemes.

- Take the time to read the verse. (You may have to read the surrounding verses to get the context)
- Discuss what this passage teaches
- I have added a few points for each verse that you may want to pick up on to help understand the verse.

#### **JOHN 8:44: SATAN IS A MURDERER/ FATHER OF LIES**

- Think about what it means that he has nothing to do with the truth
- Think about what this verse teaches us about Satan's character
- Why do people follow Satan's tendency to lie?

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 4:4: SATAN BLINDS THE MINDS OF UNBELIEVERS**

- What's the significance of the fact that Satan had blinded unbelievers minds (Why the mind)?
- Why would Satan want to stop people from seeing the glory of Christ

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15: SATAN MASQUERADES IN COSTUMES OF LIGHT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- The context is false apostles who have the family resemblance.
- Why would Satan disguise himself as an angel of light.

#### **2 THESSALONIANS 2:9: SATAN DOES SIGNS AND WONDERS**

- It might be tempting to think that Satan has fake power but it seems unlikely, his signs deceive the nations.

#### **MATTHEW 4:1-11; LUKE 22:3-6 SATAN TEMPTS PEOPLE TO SIN**

- Satan tried unsuccessfully to tempt Jesus in the wilderness.

### **MARK 4:1-9 SATAN PLUCKS THE WORD OF GOD OUT OF PEOPLE'S HEART AND CHOKES FAITH**

- Make sure everyone understands the components: Sower, seed and soil
- Focus on v.4 and v.15 - Note the explanation of the birds picturing Satan.

6. Can you think of any other passages that describe Satan's schemes?
7. What is the danger of focussing too much on Satan?

---

## **3 Schemes of Satan in the story of Gideon Ch 8**

Our passages shows three schemes that Satan used to attack Gideon and the Israelites. We need to understand that we are vulnerable to the same type of attack today.

### **Scheme of Division/ Disunity :1-3**

After Gideon's victory, the Ephraimites seem bent out of shape that they didn't get to play a role. They accuse him fiercely. In this case Gideon responds humbly and defuses the tension. Sadly we all know stories of churches affected by division/ disunity.

8. Pastor Don said "unity is not ours to create, (Eph 1) however we have to preserve unity" What does Pastor Don mean by that?

9. Read John 13:35 and Philipians 2:3-5. How do these verses fit into a conversation about unity

### **Scheme of Revenge :4-21**

Briefly scan through the passage and see how Gideon pursued revenge.

10. Why is it really hard to even the score?
11. Thinking from the viewpoint of a parent, how would you teach children that you can't even the score and how to let go of hurt/unforgiveness/anger?
12. Gideon gave into the sin of revenge after God had used him to win a mighty battle. Talk about the timing of temptations and why we need always to be on guard.
13. Revenge can be tied in with unforgiveness/anger. Read Eph. 4:26-27 What are the dangers outlined in this passage?

### **Scheme of misplaced credit :22-28**

We face the temptation of taking the credit that belongs to someone else.

14. How did Gideon forget Judges Ch 7:2
15. In Chapter 8:23, Gideon states the right answer but his actions don't match up with what he is saying. How?
16. What makes us vulnerable to the temptation to take credit for ourselves?

---

## How do we resist Satans schemes?

### **1. Prayer**

Luke 22:31

“Satan demanded to have you that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.”

Follow Christ's example

### **2. Remember Thomas Brooks 4 statements**

- Dwell more upon one another's graces than upon one another's weakness and infirmities
- Dwell upon those commands of God that require you to love one another
- Dwell more upon these choice and sweet things wherein you agree, than upon those things wherein you differ
- Dwell upon the miseries of discord