

Those Who Belong to Satan Speak/Act as the Devil

John 8:31-47 (vv. 42-47)

Facilitator: Rev. Tesfaye Tamrie

I. BIBLICAL CONTEXT AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Biblical Context

Last week, I taught from the same verses in John chapter 8. The *theme and emphasis* came from verses 34, 35 and 36: **You will die in your sins if you don't believe in and accept the Truth.** For sinners to be liberated from destruction and death (including eternal death), they must believe and act in the Truth which can only come from Jesus. **The Truth Shall Set You Free!**

Today, we are also dealing with the *same verses* in John chapter 8. However, the *theme and emphasis* come from **verses 42 through 47**. *Those who belong to Satan listen to/understand the language of the devil and act/ behave like him.* **Those who belong to the devil listen to Satan and carry out his desire** (v. 44). On the other hand, those who belong to God listen to and understand the language of Jesus. **"He who belongs to God hears what God says"** (v. 47).

SIN. Adam and Eve became separated from God because of their Sin, rebellion against God. **Disobedience led to their downfall.** Since the Fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), our nature is *marred* (impaired; flawed) by Sin. The Bible teaches that *we cannot overcome SIN* on our own; we need God to redeem us and restore us. You and I know that if it has not been for the Mercy, Grace and Love of God, we would have remained slaves to SIN! You and I can truly testify that the reason we were/are able to overcome our sinfulness is because of Jesus! We have been redeemed by the Blood of Christ! **Indeed, we have been set free by His Truth!**

B. Historical Background

As recorded in the Bible, throughout their history, the Israelites repeatedly turned their backs on God and gave in to idolatry! Every time they did that, they became **hateful** toward one another, engaged in wars/conflicts, lost territories, and eventually became slaves to idol worshipping nations. **Because they turned away from God, they turned against each other and became divided into two nations.** Killing, lying, deceiving, misleading and bribing became natural with them. Engaging in idolatry, adultery and all kinds of sexual immorality became second nature to them. **Because they were disconnected from God, they became slaves to sin!** The Bible says, because of their rebelliousness, God gave them over to idol worshipping nations such as the Babylonians, Assyrians, and eventually the Romans. By the time, Jesus came, the Israelites were under the Roman Rule.

In John chapter 8, Jesus told the Jews **"you will die in your sins"** unless they believed in Him and accept the Truth.

II. THE LESSON: Those Who Belong to Satan Speak/Act as the Devil

As we read, study and meditate on the Four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we immediately realize that the Jews, especially **the Religious Groups** (the priests, Pharisees and Sadducees), were the ones who were *vehemently opposed* to Jesus. ***These Religious Groups were the ones who lied, deceived, misled, bribed, conspired and eventually killed Jesus! They were vehemently opposed to the Truth! Jesus told them that they were unable to hear, understand and accept the Truth because their father was the devil himself!***

A. FEW FACTS ABOUT THE DEVIL

Because Jesus specifically mentions the devil in the verses we are studying today, let us take a moment to examine the **nature** and **agenda** of Satan. The first thing that must be said is that *Satan is real! Jesus mentioned him because Satan exists!* If Jesus mentioned the devil and his character, it is because He wants us to know about it! Therefore, I am obligated to spend some time teaching the *characteristics* of Satan, to remind some, to inform others and to expose his methods to everyone. Let me just highlight few verses to help us understand Satan and his tricks.

1. **Satan/Devil is Real.** The Bible mentions Satan both in the Old and New Testaments.

a) Old Testament:

- **Genesis 2:1-19. Satan is The Tempter.** Satan *tempted* Adam and Eve; both of them gave in to the temptation and committed the *first Sin* (Disobedience). Metaphorically, the Bible refers to Satan as *the serpent* – venomous, sneaky and slippery! People should stop playing with the serpent! Sooner or later, it will strike and kill! ***Satan will tempt you to sin against God!***
- **1 Chronicles 21:1-30. Satan is the Provoker.** Satan “*incited*” (*prompted, stirred up*) David “to take census of Israel.” Satan *prompted* David to count the number of “fighting men” as if *his power/strength* depended on the size of his army! ***Satan will provoke you to sin against God!***
- **Zechariah 3:1-10. Satan is The Accuser.** Satan always will try to accuse us of our sins which *God has already forgiven us* of when we believed in Jesus Christ! ***Satan will accuse us of the sins which God has already forgiven!***

b) New Testament:

- Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 22:1-6, 47. Everyone will be *tempted* by Satan; *even Jesus was tempted him.* Jesus used God’s Word against Satan. But Judas gave in to temptation; *the devil used money to tempt him!* The Bible says, it is “**the love of money**” which will cause many to fall into the trap of the devil!
- **1 Thessalonians 2:10-20 (v. 18).** Sometimes, Satan Blocks Even Believers from Doing Good.

2. **God Controls Satan.** God Controls and Uses Satan. Satan cannot do anything to you unless God gave him permission. Job is the best example (Job chapters 1 & 2). Apostle Paul is also another example (2 Corinthians 12:1-10).

3. **Satan is Your Enemy.** You cannot expect nothing but Evil from Satan – wickedness, lies, destruction, death, etc. The Bible in 1 Peter 5:8 says, “... **Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**”
4. **Satan Can be Overcome by Humans.** Those Redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ can *resist* the devil and *overcome* his temptations through **God’s Word, Faithfulness, Obedience** to Christ and **Persistent Prayer**.
 - Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus *overcame* the Tempter through Fasting, Prayer and God’s Word.
 - John 15:1-17. **Commitment to Christ and Obedience** to God is critical for the Believer.
 - Ephesians 6:10-20. “... **Put on the Full Armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.** ... And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”
5. Satan’s Time is Limited. The Book of Revelation. Jesus is Coming Back!

B. THOSE WHO BELONG TO GOD BELIEVE IN JESUS

Those who belong to God believe in Jesus and are capable of accepting His Truth. Those who belong to God also love Jesus and accept His Truth. On the other hand, those who belong to the devil neither love God nor accept the Truth. Let us now look at verses 42 through 47.

1. **vv. 42-- 44 (a). Those Who Belong to Satan Cannot Hear God.**
 - a) Verse 42: “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I come from God and now am here.” Jesus made it clear to the Jews that the reason they cannot hear Him is because they don’t love God. *In other words, **Hate made them deaf!** Those who don’t love God are **deaf** to the Truth! How true these words are even today! If you **hate** someone, you don’t want to hear them regardless of the Truth they are telling! Anyone who doesn’t Love God hates His Truth! Conversely, if someone belongs to Satan, he or she cannot love the Truth!*
 - b) Verse 43. “Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.” In addition to *parables*, Jesus used *rhetorical questions* to help people understand the Truth. The Language of God is based on Love, Peace, Mercy, Grace, Truth, Forgiveness, Redemption, Restoration, etc. Jesus came to extend God’s Love, Mercy and Grace. *But, the Jews couldn’t accept His invitation!* Jesus came to extend God’s Peace, Forgiveness and Truth. But, they reject His message because they preferred to wage war against Him! They would rather live in bondage under Satan than accept freedom in Christ!
2. **vv. 44 (b) – 45. You Cannot Comprehend My Language because You Belong to Satan.**
 - a) Verse 44 (b). “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire.” Those whom Satan dominates, “carry out” *his desires*. ***Satan’s primary goal is to oppose God and prevent people from knowing God.*** Satan’s ***strategy*** is based on *tempting* people to SIN against God. *The devil will lie, deceive, or coax you to commit sins which he knows **separate** you from God.* Once he gets

people separated from God, the devil will continue to *feed them his lies* until the Lie becomes their “truth.” That is what happened to the Jews. That is what happens to people all over the world. Since Adam and Eve gave in to Satan, humanity continues to be *susceptible (liable due to weakness, easily manipulated)* to the devil’s *tricks and strategies*.

- b) Verse 45. **From the Beginning the Devil is a Murderer and Liar.** Jesus said, the devil “was a **murderer** from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a **liar** and the father of lies.” **The Language of the devil is lying.** *It is a language of falsehood, deception, and trickery which leads people away from God and His Truth.* The devil is not only a liar but also a **murderer**. Satan lies to people in order to separate them from God and kill them! The devil lies to people in order to separate them from the Truth and lead them to a life of falsehood and destruction! *Anyone who is capable of lying and murdering people is carrying out the desires of the devil. He or she is serving of the devil! Of course, Jesus was pressing hard so that the Jews would examine themselves and realize who they belong to!*
- Since the Jews were lying, then, they must admit Jesus is telling the Truth! In which case, they must admit they are guilty and repent of their sins!
 - Since the Jews were conspiring and planning to kill Jesus, they must admit that they don’t belong to God since they know the Ten Commandments: thou shall not murder!
3. **vv. 46-47. Those Who Belong to God Hear What God Says.**
- a) Verse 46. “Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe Me?” Again, Jesus employs *rhetorical question* to challenge the Jews to really examine themselves and consider who they are! “Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin?” Of course, it is impossible to find sin in God who is Holy and Righteous in all that He is and does! The Religious Groups tried to *trick* Jesus into contradicting God’s Word as it is written in the Old Testament to *accuse* Him of lying! Of course, their father, Satan, tried to *twist* God’s Word in order to *trick* Jesus at His weakest moment! But, the devil failed! (Matthew 4:1-11).
- b) Verse 47. “He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” Well, Jesus told them the Truth! All they had to do was to accept the Truth about themselves and ask God for forgiveness! The Truth would have set them free from the bondage of sin! The Truth would have set them free from being slaves to Satan!

III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

1. **Our Faith in Christ will be challenged. We just need to depend on God and persevere in His Truth.**
2. **Satan will continue to tempt us, the Believers. We just need to resist the devil; he will flee from us.**