



Mirror, Mirror on the Wall
Session 3

- I. The only adequate explanation for the human dilemma – Ephesians 6:12-13
 - A. The world is troubled, confused and often in despair.
 - B. There are no long-term solutions, only short term responses by world leaders.
 - C. We will never understand and comprehend what is going on in our world until we accept the biblical diagnosis of life.
 - D. Our experience confirms that life is basically a struggle.
 1. The battle is visible and invisible.
 2. The whole race is under the control of satanic forces.
 3. The ultimate power and bondage have been broken.
 4. We have been set free to engage in the fight.
 5. It is possible to live in victory. James 4:7b
- II. The general strategy of the devil
 - A. His key identity – he is a liar and murderer. John 8:44
 1. His strategy is to murder.
 2. His primary tactic by which he accomplishes this is through a lie.
 - B. He is “Apollyon,” the “Destroyer.”
 1. He delights in smashing, mangling, twisting, mutilating, disfiguring, and darkening.

2. He is after bodies or souls, flesh or ideas, matter or spirit.

3. His power is totally negative, completely destructive.

C. He was originally an angel of power and beauty who was lifted up with pride.

D. In his fall, a third of the angels fell with him.

III. The tactics of the devil fall into two major divisions by which he maintains control—direct attacks and indirect attacks.

A. Direct attacks – demon possession (“the outright control of human personality by the power of a wicked spirit”)

1. It includes soothsaying, occultism, spiritism, black magic arts.
(Astrology, horoscopes, voodooism, fortune telling, etc.)

2. The Bible warns against dabbling in these practices. Isaiah 8:19

B. Demon possession is not mental illness.

1. The Bible distinguishes between the two - Matthew 4:24; Luke 4:40-41)

2. Biblical cases of demon possession do not conform to the clinical pattern of any known mental disease.

a. There is always a moral debasement.

b. There is recognition of Jesus by the demon.

c. There is always the presence of a different personality in the one possessed.

3. Jesus clearly identifies demon possession. He came to reveal the truth.

4. When Christian teaching spreads, the direct assault of evil powers on human life is suspended.

5. When Christians encounter direct demonic attack on people, we are told to pray.

C. The majority of the attacks of the devil are indirect. (The strategies of Ephesians 6:11)

D. The indirect approach comes through two channels.

1. The world – human society, blindly and universally accepting false values and shallow insights as well as demanding conformity to them.
2. The flesh – the inward urge towards total independence, toward being our own little gods and running our worlds to please ourselves.

IV. Understanding the indirect attack on the flesh

- A. The flesh is identified with the body in a symbolic sense. The body “embodies” the flesh.
- B. The body is also tied together with the soul and spirit of a man. Therefore the flesh has access to the whole man.
- C. This means that the devil can influence us in our mind (intelligence), our feelings (emotions) and our deeds (will).
- D. We need to properly understand how this works.
 1. Through the mind, the devil appeals to human pride.
 2. Through the emotions, he works on our fears.
 3. In the realm of deeds, the devil makes his appeal to pleasure.
- E. God and the devil move through the same channels.
 1. The devil moves to create imbalance, eccentricity and extremism.
 2. God moves toward balance, harmony and beauty.
- F. Jesus Christ was the only perfectly balanced human being.
 1. He has incredible insights.
 2. He is warmly human.
 3. He manifests His intelligence and emotions in practical deeds.