

## 111024 sunday morning

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I feel like that I've touched on this a lot lately, and I found myself yesterday, and I probably shouldn't have been doing it, but I found myself kind of questioning the Lord, and I said, Lord, it feels like I've touched on this a lot lately, and I'm preaching on it again, that I could almost hear the voice of God's great Holy Ghost speak to my spirit and say it's not for you to question, I'm trying to warn somebody. So, I'm just going to put it in gear and ask the Lord to help us. If you feel like you've heard this lately, just bear with me.

It's for somebody, maybe for more than one person, but this I know, the Lord is trying to tell somebody this morning, you better quit listening to the lies of the devil, because you're about to go from a garden to a graveyard. We like to talk about going from graveyards to gardens, and that's true. God's great Holy Ghost can definitely take us there, but there is also a time, if we listen to the lies of the enemy, we put our faith in what he's telling us, the very devil from hell can take us from a garden to a graveyard.

And I'm going to show you what I mean in just a minute. If you would, stand with me for the reading of the Word of God. We're going to read one verse.

Keep your Bibles open, because we're going to be looking at a couple more places of Scripture. Go with me to John chapter 8. We're going to begin reading in verse 44. John chapter 8, begin reading in verse 44.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Let's read that again. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it. Let me say, as you've heard me say lately, that nine times out of ten, when the devil comes against you, and he comes against me, he's not going to come in a red suit, with horns, and a pitchfork. He is not going to have on a name tag that says Satan, or Lucifer, or Beelzebub, or the Prince of Darkness.

Nine times out of ten, when Satan comes against me, and he comes against you, he is going to come as an angel of light. I remember many years ago, many, many years ago, I dreamed about the devil, and I guess up to that point, I had always pictured him as being the bugger man. But in this dream, I remember we were at a particular house, and I remember that there was a man there that was so charismatic.

I remember that man was drawing everybody in the room to him. When he would smile, when he would talk, it seemed like the whole room lit up with the things he was saying. But as time went on, I was watching him, I began to see things that didn't add up, and before long, I began to discern in my spirit, Brother Billy, that Satan was in the middle of the living room of that house.

I remember I began trying to tell people, there's something not right here. Some of the things that he's been saying aren't adding up. But the people kept listening to the lies of this charismatic man.

And before long, it seemed like I alone was the only one in the room that knew that it was the devil that was talking to us. Let me tell you, in 2024, the devil is beating a drum and spouting out a doctrine and speaking lies to God's children that they're falling for hook, line, and sinker. If we've ever needed the discerning power of God's great Holy Ghost, it's in the age in which we live.

No longer does Satan have to disguise himself to come into our midst, Sister Peggy. No longer does he have to hide himself when he comes to the house of God. But now, Satan comes in the doors boldly, and he joins our churches, and he sits on our benches, and we applaud it because we like the lying doctrine that it tells us.

Can you say amen? Listen to me. If you think, if you think the devil ain't after you, you better think again. Brother Cody, when you get up in the mornings before your feet hit the floor, there are two plans for your life.

There is the plan God has, and then there is the plan that hell has. And as you start your day as your pastor, I would counsel you when you wake up every morning to make a conscious decision to declare, this is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice in it and be glad.

Can you say amen? This is where it gets tricky. This is where it gets tricky. Those thoughts that are flooding your mind, those thoughts that seem oh so right and oh so accurate, and listen, you think they're your thoughts, but most of the time, they're the lies of the devil.

What happens, listen to me, not every thought, this is where we've got to learn to discern, not every thought that goes through our mind is from us, Nathan. We have to learn to discern the thoughts that come into our mind, and we're going to talk more about that in a minute, but I'm here to tell you, you've heard me say it, listen to me, if the thoughts that come into your mind subtracts and divides, if it takes you away from what does sayeth the word of God, if it separates you from those who love you, I dare say it's from hell and it's out to steal your soul, but if those thoughts add to and multiply the joy that God gives, if it goes in line with the word of God, I dare say those thoughts are from the Lord. Listen to me.

I want to show you why the devil's after you, and I know, I know that I know that I know the Holy Ghost is talking to some this morning. Listen to me. I want you to go over to Genesis

chapter 3. Actually, look at Genesis 1 and verse 29.

Genesis chapter 1, verse 29. God said, Behold, I've given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed. To you it shall be for meat.

Remember this. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat. And it was so.

Look at chapter 2, over in verse 9. Listen to me. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Go down to verse 16. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it.

For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Now go over to Genesis 3. We're going to begin reading in verse 1. Can we agree that God gave them every tree in the garden? He said that they're good to look upon, didn't he? Didn't he say that there in verse 9? To grow every tree that's pleasant to the sight and good for food. Are you with me? Look in chapter 3. Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

And he said unto the woman, Hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Notice how he twisted the plan of God. He twisted the word of God. The woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden.

Listen to me. She messed up right there by changing the word of God. God said you may freely eat.

Right there she minimized the word of God. She just said we can eat, but keep going. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said ye shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest ye die.

Going on to verse 4. Listen to what the devil says. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Now listen right here. And when the woman... What? What did the woman do? Look at me, church. She looked at it.

She wasn't hungry. She had all the other trees in the garden. But the devil had her focused on that one tree that she was not supposed to have.

The devil took... He gave her trees that looked... The Lord gave her trees that looked good that

she could pull fruit from. But the devil turned her gaze from the things that God had placed before her to enjoy and had her fix her gaze on the one thing she was not supposed to have. And the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eyes.

And the tree to be desired to make one wise. She took of the fruit thereof and did eat and gave also to her husband with her and he did eat. Listen to me.

I feel the warning of God. You listen to me. What did God say was going to happen when they took of that fruit? They were going to die.

Did they die in that moment? Did they die? Did they die when they put their hand to that they should not have put their hand to? The process of death started. And they didn't know it. In that moment, Megan, they went from a garden to a graveyard and they didn't even know it.

Well, my goodness. God said, who's going to die? I'm still alive. You're still alive.

What's the harm? Now, I see things a little bit differently than what I did. But I'm still alive. Spiritually.

Spiritually, they died. And not just that, they started the process of physical death. I can't help but wonder if before that, if they weren't going to live for a long time.

But in that moment, they introduced death to our species physically and spiritually all because the devil had got her to shift her focus from the garden that she was in. The blessings of the garden. You listen to me.

There's people in our churches sitting there right now. They're thinking about throwing in the towel, Brother Billy, and giving it up, going back to the things of the world, going back to the lies of the devil because the warfare has been so great. But let me say to you, you better hold on because death is surely waiting.

You've been in a garden, you've enjoyed the blessings of God, but the devil's painted you a picture and you're close to changing your garden for a graveyard. Can you say amen? Listen to me. Quit listening to the lies of the devil.

In this story, we see that the lies was to put him in bondage. He wants to put you in bondage. Flip over.

Got another story. Flip over to 1 Chronicles chapter 21. I'm thinking to show you the second reason Satan is lying to your mind and trying to trip you up.

1 Chronicles chapter 21. 1 Chronicles chapter 21. Start in verse 1. Listen.

And Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel. David said to Joab and the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan and bring the number of them to me that I may know it. And Joab answered, The Lord make his people a hundred

times so many more as they be.

But my Lord, the king, are they not all my Lord's servants? Why then doth my Lord require this thing? Why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore, Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem. Go to verse 7. And God was displeased with this thing.

Therefore, he smote Israel. Go down to verse 14. So the Lord sent pestilence upon Israel and there fell of Israel 70,000 men.

Let me give you a little back story on this. In verse 20, Israel had just come through a good time. Oh, brother Tim, they had just come through a glorious time.

They had just won this battle. They had just defeated this enemy. The word tells us that David even got the king's crown and put it on.

No doubt, it was a happy time. But in verse 21, we see a change. And what was that change? In chapter 21, verse 1, and Satan stood up against Israel.

In that moment, did he attack Israel? Nope. You know what he did? He got on David. Listen to me.

The second reason the devil floods your mind with lies and deception is because he's trying to take your people, your family, your brothers and sisters, your children, your grandchildren from a time of victory to a time of defeat. Sometimes the battles that we face when the devil's coming against us, he's trying to get us to quit, trying to get us to throw in the towel. It's because he sees conversations that you don't see.

That way a child might be talking to that spouse at their house saying, you know, I really think we need to really give thought to getting in church. We really need to give thought to getting ourselves straightened out. You don't know that, but the devil does.

And that sometimes is why the devil's going to ramp up his attack, and he's going to come to you. He's going to be like, why are you even going? Why are you even going? You ain't going to get no help. It's the same thing day in and day out.

It'd be easier just to stay home and play on your phone, sit there. You ain't going to get no help at home. Stay here.

Stay here. It is a lie from the very caverns of hell because he knows something is going on in the people around you. He knows that the hand of God is moving on their behalf, and what he's wanting to do is he's wanting to tear down the pillar that they look to.

He's wanting to tear down the strong one. He's wanting to tear down the mother who prays, the priest of the family who gets ahold of God. Quit listening to the lies of the devil.

It ain't just your life that depends on it. It could be your family. My blessed Lord, and Satan stood up against Israel and he provoked David.

There's a lot of different speculation, a lot of different ways of thinking that David took this census, all kinds of different ways that you can go there. I'm not really sure. I don't really have an answer on that, but I do know this.

For whatever reason, David thought in that moment it was a good idea. David thought in that moment, Sister April, this seems like a good thing to do. This seems like a good idea, and where did it get him? Where did it get him? 70,000 men fell in Israel because of David's disobedience.

You know it's the devil if it distracts you, if it depresses you, and if it divides you. I'm fixing to clue you in on a time most often that the enemy will move in for the kill. Remember this word.

HALT. H-A-L-T. H-A-L-T.

when you're hurt. We've all experienced church hurt. It's horrible.

I told a good brother a while back, I said hurt is worse than angry because it hurts. When you're hurt, the devil knows it, and he moves in for the kill. The A halt when you're angry.

Look, it's okay to get angry and sin not, but whenever you get angry, if you're not careful, the devil will move in and get to feeding it, and before you know it, you've moved into rage. The L stands for lonely when you're isolated. When you think you're by yourself, when you think nobody cares, you better rest assured that devil is gonna be right there speaking to your mind, speaking to your mind, moving in and making it so much worse than what it is, and the T in halt is tired.

When you're tired, Sister Ashley, when you're tired, you think the devil won't have a field day with it, you're tired emotionally, you're tired mentally, you're tired physically, you're so wore out, but we have to keep going, we have to keep going, we have to keep going, and the devil is telling our minds this whole time, it's not worth it, it's not worth it, it's not worth it, but listen to me, if I can tell you, if you leave with anything, and I feel like I've made a mess of this morning, but if I can leave you with anything, let me leave you with this, the only power the devil has in your lives is the lies that he tells. That is the only power that he has are the lies that he tells you. If you believe his lies, he's got you, but if you recognize it, and you confront it, and you line it up with the Word of God, and you talk about it with your brother and sister, you talk about it with your spouse, you talk about it, and turn the light on, as it were, it's just like a cockroach.

You know cockroaches won't come out when the lights on, but whenever, when the lights off, they're scurrying around, but when you turn the light on, oh Leslie, when you turn the light on, those cockroaches have to run. I counsel you this morning, if the devil's been lying to you, turn the light on in the Word of God, expose him for the liar that he is. Can you say amen? Don't listen to him.

He is the father of all lies. Sister Leslie Bowen, she's always said this, and I love this in her, she'll say, I ain't gonna lie because my daddy ain't the devil, and she'll tell you the truth. She'll tell you the blunt truth.

I ain't gonna lie because my daddy ain't the devil. If you're listening to those lies and believe in those lies, he's got you, but let me tell you this, if you'll submerge yourself in what the Word of God says, you can turn the light on, and that old cockroach Satan has to get out. Can you say amen? Stand with me.

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