

OUR ENEMY, THE THIEF

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 10:10
LUKE 8:12

INTRODUCTION

MY OBJECT LESSON FROM SATURDAY NIGHT: I WAS IN BED. THE TELEPHONE RUNG ONCE. I ANSWERED IT, BUT THE LINE WAS DEAD. I GOT OUT OF BED, WENT TO THE 7-11 AND CALLED TELEPHONE REPAIR TO REPORT THAT MY LINE WAS OUT OF ORDER. I CAME TO THE CHURCH AND PICKED UP THE CHURCH PHONE TO SEE IF MY TELEPHONE ITSELF HAD WAS NOT WORKING. ON THE WAY HOME, GOD BEGAN TO SPEAK TO ME THIS MESSAGE:

I. WHAT HE STEALS FROM US

A. HE WILL STEAL YOUR TIME

MATTHEW 13:22 NIV WHAT WAS SOWN AMONG THE THORNS IS THE MAN WHO HEARS THE WORD, THE THE WORRIES OF LIFE AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF WEALTH CHOKED IT, MAKING IT UNFRUITFUL.

B. HE WILL STEAL YOUR ENERGY

DANIEL 7:25A KJV HE WILL SPEAK GREAT WORDS AGAINST THE MOST HIGH, AND SHALL WEAR OUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH....

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8 NIV WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BUT NOT CRUSHED, PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR, PERSECUTED, BUT NOT ABANDONED, STRUCK DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED.

C. HE WILL STEAL YOUR FINANCES

JOB 1:14 NIV ...A MESSENGER CAME TO JOB AND SAID, "THE OXEN WERE PLOWING AND THE DONKEYS WERE GRAZING NEARBY, AND THE SABELS ATTACKED AND CARRIED THEM OFF. THEY PUT THE SERVANTS TO THE SWORD, AND I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS ESCAPED TO TELL YOU!

D. HE WILL STEAL YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 5:8B NIV YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.

II. HOW HE STEALS FROM US

JOHN 10:10A THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY....

A. IN OUR TIME

1. BY OVERLOADING US WITH OBLIGATIONS
2. BY CAUSING US NOT TO PLAN OUR TIME
3. BY MAKING FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS ON OUR TIME

B. IN OUR ENERGY

1. HE WILL RUN YOU HERE AND THERE TO WEAR YOU DOWN
2. HE WILL PLACE YOU UNDER GREAT PRESSURE

EXAMPLE: ELIJAH AFTER HIS VICTORY ON MOUNT CARMEL

C. IN OUR FINANCES

1. THROUGH ACCUSING US BEFORE GOD AND TESTING US
2. THROUGH CAUSING EVIL MEN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US
3. THROUGH CAUSING SIN TO BLOCKADE GOD'S BLESSING
4. THROUGH CAUSING US NOT TO BE GIVERS

D. IN OUR SOUL

1. BY KEEPING US FROM SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH THE LORD
2. BY MAKING US FEEL THAT SERVING GOD IS IMPOSSIBLE AND AND FUTILE
3. BY MAKING GOD'S COMMANDS TO SEEM UNREASONABLE

III. HOW TO COMBAT HIM

DANIEL 11:32B KJV BUT THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD WILL BE STRONG AND DO EXPLOITS.

EPHESIANS 6:18 NIV 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.

- A. KNOW THE POWER OF YOUR GOD
- B. COMBAT HIM ON A SPIRITUAL LEVEL
 - 1. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
 - 2. IDENTIFY THE REAL ENEMY
 - 3. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE REAL ENEMY