

SERMON NOTES - The Devil's Bruises

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

The Devil is our enemy - he hates us and wants to destroy us. He does this mainly by LYING, but he also uses BRUISES. The context for this is found in the verses in the beginning of the Bible that speak of BLESSING and CURSING - in Genesis 1 and 3:

Genesis 1:28 NKJV — Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 3:14 NKJV — So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

The devil's tactics and nature

Jhn 8:32, 44 NKJV - "And you shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall **make you free**." ... 44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the **truth**, because there is **no truth** in him. When he speaks a **lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a **liar** and the **father** of it."

Jhn 10:10-11 NKJV - "10 "The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

What Jesus has done

Isa 53:1, 4-5 NKJV - "1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

4 Surely He has borne our griefs (*ḥōlî* - *sicknesses*) And carried our sorrows (*mak'ōb*) see Mat 8:17 below - "*infirmities, sicknesses*"; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted." 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions , He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace (*šālôm*) was upon Him, And by His stripes (*ḥabûrâ* - *also bruises*) we are healed (*rāpā'*)."

Mat 8:17 NKJV - "17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.""

Lam 5:7 NKJV – "7 Our fathers sinned and are no more, But we bear their iniquities."

Eph 4:26-27 NKJV — "26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place (foothold NIV) to the devil."

Jer 6:16 NKJV - "16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

Concluding thoughts:

- Blessing is God's will and desire, but our sin, and the devil's lies, have resulted in cursing throughout our lives, but especially when we were young.
- Right at the start, God prophesied His "rescue plan" - the seed (child) of the woman would bruise or crush the devil's head, even while the devil was bruising His heel.
- Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf brings healing from the bruises and penalties of sin, and enable us to be free.
- The steps we must take to be free and remain free are:
 - RECEIVE / BELIEVE - (Isa 53:1);
 - REPENT;
 - RESIST the devil

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.