

The Enemy's Challenge

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Opening Summary

What do you do when the enemy challenges you? The Scripture tells us how those in Scripture responded and gained victory when the enemy attacked them while they were obeying God. Jesus is our greatest example. No matter what you're going through, if you do what He did, you too can walk in victory every time.

Text: Mark 4:17: Satan challenges Christians to get them offended (Gk.: *skandalizo*). It means to entrap, i.e., trip up, stumble, to entice to sin, apostasy (renounce belief) or displeasure, make to offend.

- I. Satan uses physical attacks against you or others you love or admire to discourage you from believing and walking in faith. Especially if you have received a Word from God or something good is about to happen.
 - A. 2 Cor. 4:13-18: Paul is referring to you. The lower case 's' in *spirit* refers to you.
 - B. 2 Cor. 5:1-7: *Faith* (Gk.: *pistis*) means *trust, confidence, belief in God*.
 - C. We do not walk by what we feel, hear (with physical ears), see, touch or smell.
- II. Everyone in Scripture who received a Word from the Lord was challenged.
 - A. Gen. 12:10: Abraham was challenged with famine.
 - B. Gen. 37:5,18-20: Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him.
 - C. Exo. 3:10-14: The people Moses was sent to deliver came against him (Exo. 4:20-5:1-21).
- III. The disciples of Jesus were challenged.
 - A. Acts 1:8; 4:1-3,18: They acted on the Word and were jailed then threatened.
 - B. Satan tries to entrap you, i.e., trip you up, cause you to stumble, to entice you to sin, get you to renounce your belief in God, displeasure.
 - C. Tests and trials do not come to make you strong, but to knock you out.
 - D. Rev. 1:9: Because of the Word, they tried to kill John, but could not so they banished him to an island.
 1. When you receive a Word from God and affliction and persecution come, this answers the question "Why did this happen?" (John 10:10).
 2. Satan will come after you, your children, your parents, your job, anybody you love. He is completely unfair. He will come in any door someone left open.
 - E. Acts 16:6-7; 26:15-18: Paul was challenged when he received the Word of the Lord.
 1. Acts 16:7-9, 16-17: Satan sent a woman to stop Paul.
 2. Acts 16:23-25: Paul was beaten and jailed.
 - F. Satan uses different people, circumstances and situations to challenge you.

- G. Mark 4:35-41: The Lord Jesus was challenged by a great storm and accusation.
 - H. I received an assignment to quit my job and go to Bible school.
 - 1. Satan immediately challenged us twice with racial attacks.
 - 2. Our little home was flooded out and we lost all our belongings.
 - 3. We stayed in the love of God and graduated debt free.
 - I. Today satan is using racial discrimination against Christians.
- IV. What do you do when the enemy challenges you?
- A. John 10:10: Recognize who is attacking you and why (Mark 4:17).
 - B. John 15:18-20: Know that attacks come with the territory (John 16:33).
 - C. 2 Cor 12:7-10: Know that you have victory because the grace God gave you is sufficient (Eph. 2:8).
 - 1. 1 John 5:4: Your faith overcomes the world.
 - 2. 1 John 4:4: God in you is greater and mightier than the devil in the world.
 - 3. Heb. 6:12: Keep the faith with patience (be steadfast and do not give up).
 - D. Acts 5:41 Rejoice in shame. *Shame* (Gk.: *atimazo*) means *to render infamous, despise, dishonor, entreat shamefully*.
 - 1. It doesn't matter what men think about you. It matters that God will say to you "Well done thou good and faithful servant" throughout all eternity.
 - 2. It matters that you do the will of God.
 - E. Take authority over the enemy (Luke 10:19; Mark 16:15-20)!
 - 1. Rejoice that the Word is so.
 - 2. Know that when you use the name/authority of Jesus, satan is defeated and you get the victory.
 - F. Be strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10).
- V. If you are in the earth, you are in a fight (1 Tim. 6:12). It was Good Friday when the power in the building went out. I took my authority over that situation and told satan to get his hand off our building. I didn't know how God was going to do it, but I knew everything would be all right Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. And it was so.
- VI. Eph. 6:16: Out in front of all take the shield of faith. You have the Word on the matter, receive it, believe it, speak it and act on it. Extinguish the enemy's fiery darts.
- A. Take the Word the Holy Spirit will use in your situation.
 - B. With your mouth command demon spirits to desist from their maneuvers against you.
 - C. Send your angels to serve you and to straighten your situation out.
 - D. Praise God for the victory He has already given you.

Closing Summary

Knowing how the enemy attacks is key to maintaining your victory as you receive God's Word and obey it. You have seen from Scripture that you must stand firm on God's Word. For it is only His Word that gives you victory in every situation and circumstance.