

The Identity Crisis: Jesus v Satan

South Park: Puny Jesus v mighty Satan. **Keith Green:** 'No One Believes in Me Anymore'

C.S. Lewis: 'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.'

I. In the Beginning

► Jesus defeats Satan in his being

Colossians 1:15-17 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.'

II. Behind Enemy Lines

► Jesus defeats Satan with Scripture

Ephesians 6:17b 'Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.'

► Jesus defeats Satan with Prayer

Mark 8:29 Jesus said, 'This kind [of evil spirit] can come out only by prayer.'

John 17:11-12 Jesus prayed 'Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.'

► Jesus defeats Satan with power

Luke 11:20 Jesus said, 'But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.'

► Jesus defeats Satan with his death & resurrection

Revelation 12:10-11 'Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.'

III. Armed and Dangerous

The Victorious Life...

Romans 8:36b-39 (NLT) '...overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away...nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus'.

Connect Questions for this Sunday's Sermon Outline

1. Look up each of the verses used to tempt Jesus in Luke 4:1-13 and check the context. How are they being "twisted"?
2. "There is a fine line between a healthy knowledge of our enemy and an unhealthy obsession with evil." Would you agree with this statement? How would you know if the line was crossed?
3. What is the main thrust of the temptations Jesus faces? How does he "resist the devil"?
4. When we baptise someone we call on their parents and sponsors to declare "the rejection of all that is evil: the devil and all his works, the empty display and false values of the world and the sinful desires the flesh". How comprehensive is this 3-fold definition of evil?
5. What power does Jesus say he uses to drive out demons (Luke 11:20). What is the significance of this language?
6. Read Romans 8:28-39. On what grounds can we confidently claim that our eternal destiny is secure and guaranteed – and that it cannot be taken from us by Satan? You are asked to organise a 'dramatic reading of Romans 8:28-39. How would you mark it up to be read for maximum impact?