

Midweek - The Battle / Week 2 - Know Thy Enemy

Discussion ?'s

Do you ever watch how-to videos or tutorials? What was the last one you checked out?

When you think about what you knew about Angels, Demons and Satan before tonight, where did you get most of what you knew?

What was something you found interesting or surprising about what was shared?

Did any of the answers disappoint or discourage you?

What was something that still seems confusing to you?

Can you think of one way that tonight's time might have helped you grow as a follower of Jesus?

What is a question you still have?

10 things worth knowing about Angels, Demons & Satan.

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#3 Why so hush hush?
Angels & Demons actually appear often in the Bible
Romans 16:19 & Luke 10:20 though...
Bottom Line:
We know enough and there are more important things.

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#4 Do we become Angels when we die?
Romans 8:16-17 & 29, Luke 12:30-32
Bottom Line:
No, even better than that.

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#5 Does spiritual warfare still happen?
Good question, depends where in the world you ask it.
Bottom Line:
Might be wiser to ask why we don't think we see it anymore...

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#2 What is their Job
Hebrews 1:14 & Luke 13:16
Bottom Line:
Angels - God's agents of good to his people.
Demons/Satan - Trap & Distract*

*lead folks to... mess up (fall into sin) give up (get discouraged), get puffed up (live in arrogance) split up (division), or shut up (quit sharing God's good news)

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#1 Where'd they come from?
Psalms 148:2-5
Job 38:4-7
Colossians 1:16
Bottom Line:
They are God's creations.

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#10 Are we helpless?
Ephesians 6:10-18
Bottom Line: We've been equipped if we'll pick it up.

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#9 Who is more powerful?
Daniel 10:7-13
Bottom Line:
God!

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#8 Guardian angels?
Matthew 18:10 & Acts 12:15
Bottom Line: We don't know, but all angels are FOR all believers. Seems like enough to go around.

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#6 How powerful are they?
Angels, Daniel 6:19-22 & 10:7-13, Mark 16:4-5
Demons, Matt. & Luke 8, 1 Tim. 4:1-2 & Acts 19:16
Bottom Line: Superhuman strength & abilities. Demons can be overpowered & resisted still.

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#7 Was possession just sickness they didn't understand?
Matthew 4:24
Bottom Line: They seemed to know a difference

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Midweek - The Battle

Week 2 - Know Thy Enemy

- HOOK -

- Anyone in here ever have to watch game film? Like what for what sports? Why do you suppose you do this? To get to know your opponent, right? Now do you ever watch film of the game you were in too? So coach can show you what you were doing right or what you need to do differently. If you one of the most famous writers of Asia in like 500 B.C., who penned the famous book, *The Art of War*, Sun-Tzu, you might even say... "Know thy enemy, know thyself"
- But maybe some of you haven't ever watched game film...
- How many of you have ever been faced with a task... fixing something (a door knob, rattle/radio in your car), figuring something out (why your ps4 won't update / how to get ketchup out of your parent's white couch, why your phone updated and things aren't where they used to be), etc and you google it or go to YouTube? You have questions, you might have an idea or you might be totally clueless, but you take the time to try and find an answer.
- Both these scenarios are a bit of where we find ourselves this week.
- *Transition Thought...* Well we're going to keep digging along the lines of what we talked about last week. That we're in a spiritual battle, but this week we'll look at who is IN this battle with us. Who is maybe with us and who is against us. But we're not going to google or YouTube these things but we are going to take some questions scripture and see what it has to say.

BOOK/LOOK

- In true internet fashion.... Let's look at 10 things worth knowing about Angels, Demons and Satan... (*CoachNote: I'm working at 2mins or less average on each one and am willing to close it down at 20mins even if we're just to #5 or 6. You can talk about the extras in small group OR someday they can research them themselves.-LJS*)

• **#1 Where did they come from? They are CREATED beings from BEFORE us.**

- When we read Ps. 148:2-5 we hear this....

• *Psalm 148:2-5*

- ² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created.

• *Job 38:4-7 "...while the morning stars sang together*

and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy?"

• *Colossians 1:16 - ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

• **#2 What is their job?**

- Hebrews 1:14 & Ro. 8:28,
Matthew 4:11 (Jesus Tempted
& Angels attend at end)
- Luke 13:16 - Woman bound
by Satan. Jesus came to
make people free, Satan to
bind, trap and oppress. One
writer put it this way about
what we see Demons up to in
scripture.... "The up's"

TEACHES US:

- They aren't eternal like God
- They (Demons and Satan) aren't equal to God.

- Jesus was part of making them and their purpose*

*may or may not share these pieces if they create more questions than needed at this time.

TEACHES US:

- ANGELS are to "minister" and serve those who will be saved. No as slaves of humans, but agents of God. Agents of God's good. (Ro. 8:28) They are messengers, warriors, workers and more.

- DEMONS (and Satan) - seem to intent on leading us to *mess up* (fall into sin), *give up* (get discouraged), *get puffed up* (live in arrogance), *split up* (divide), or *shut up* (quit sharing God's good news)

• **#3 Why don't we know much about them? Or the Bible talk more about them?**

- Angels and Demons are actually a fairly common subject in Scripture. Especially in the N.T.

TEACHES US:

- Scripture isn't afraid to share about them.
- We do well not to be too preoccupied or distracted in an unhealthy way by them.

- A thought someone pointed out... Ro. 16:19 "Wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil." Maybe not being too distracted or preoccupied is a good thing. Bible is about God's story, not theirs.
- C.S. Lewis said, ""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." (Preface of the ScrewTape letters)

- **#4 Do we become Angels when we die?**

- No. Better things await us.
- You are an Heir (Ro. 8:16-17), Brother (8:29), Son (Luke 12:30-32)
- You will judge them someday (1 Corinthians 6:3), however that looks/works like.

TEACHES US:

- You are more precious to God than his angels. Not just a follower but family.
- You are above angels.

- **#5 Do spiritual attacks still happen?**

- Take some of the things we've already talked about.... Have you *messed up, given up, been puffed up, split up or shut up?*
- Culturally we are in a different place too. It is totally possible that Satan has taken advantage of the fact that we have misunderstood him or underestimate his presence and power and he operates in spite of this.
- KNOW THIS: In OTHER CULTURES around the world it is a different story. On the MISSION field Spiritual Warfare is talked of more. Also cultures that are more *animistic (everything in the natural world having a soul or sentience), are quicker to point out Demons and Demonic Possession. That doesn't necessarily make them more backwoods or wrong, they might be more perceptive than us. We're living in a mostly naturalistic culture (everything traces to a cause or practice within the natural world), where do you suppose there is room for explanation of evil and spirituality in that?!?!?*
- "That, in fact, may be the major difference with the Enemy's work in animistic cultures: where he wants animists to fear him more, he wants Westerners to fear him less, if at all." -Chuck Lawless

TEACHES US:

- While Satan is defeated, he has not been declawed. He still has dominion here. Scripture doesn't speak otherwise until... (Rev 20:1-3, 10)

- **#6 How powerful are they?**

- ANGELS - They can...
 - Shut Lion's Jaws, Daniel 6:19-22
 - Fight off demons, Daniel 10:7-13
 - Defeat the Enemy, 2 Kings 19:35
 - Roll Away Stones, Mark 16:4-5
 - Power over Nature, Revelation

TEACHES US:

-All seem to have superhuman strength and abilities.

As to Demons/Satan....

-Would seem Christians can only be OPPRESSED and not POSSESSED.

-They can be RESISTED

-In Jesus' name they have been known to flee.

- DEMONS - They can...

- POSESS people - Paralyzed, Sick, Bleeding, Dumb & Mute. Seizures and Violence. Extreme strength. Matthew 8, Luke 8. Man/Men at the tombs. Into Pigs. (It isn't always dramatic or extreme though either)
- Can OPPRESS people - Jesus' temptation. Deception and Blindness (1 Timothy 4:1-2), Seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-16)
- TEMPT

- **#7 Is 'possessed' just another word for sickness in the Bible before they knew what these sickness were?**

- Doesn't seem so. Sickness and Possession seems to be talked about separately.
- So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to Him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and He cured them ([Matthew 4:24](#)).

TEACHES US:

-They knew some kind of difference.

- Doesn't mean Satan/ Demons can't use sickness to their advantage.

- **#8 Do we have guardian angels?**

- Maybe yes, maybe no.
- Matthew 18:10 some feel suggests this... ¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.” Passage could be more about, be aware of who you are messing with. (Acts 12:15) is another. Peter showing up from prison and them seeing “his angel”.

TEACHES US:

-Maybe not in the traditional sense. But are angels for God's good in our life? SURE!

- Truth is, if Angels are to be ministers to all those who are saved, all angels everywhere are for God's good in our lives. Which is... well good.

- **#9 Who is more Powerful, Satan or Angels?**

- What do you all think? What seems wise based on what we've said?
- I don't know, but they are at least equals, and it seems angels won out in Daniel's case. (See Daniel 10:7-13)

TEACHES US:

- Hard to tell, we don't really know. BUT...
- An angel wins out in Daniel's story.
- Demons/Satan aren't even close to God's power and might.

- **#10 Are we helpless against Spiritual Warfare.**

- Paul's whole point is that we have access to the WHOLE armor of God.
- Ephesians 6:10-18, Including...
 - Truth, Righteousness (Both inward and outer), God's good news, Faith/Trust in God, Confidence in our Salvation, God's word and Prayer.

TEACHES US:

- We aren't helpless and have been equipped.
- Have/will we pick it up?

- TOOK -

- The point of tonight isn't to try and teach you a whole bunch of information. But to help you see there are answers to some of these things. Some of these answers are maybe helpful and encouraging. Some might be a little scare or disconcerting. But the truth is, we serve a God is way more powerful than any of these things, and yet has equipped us to be able to do life and thrive in the midst of a battle. We are not alone or unable to speak up for ourselves or others IN HIS POWER.
- The call remains the same though. To be AWARE and SOBER MINDED
- Lets head to our small groups and talk about what was intriguing, confusing or possibly even applicable in what we read tonight!