

Act 9:10-25 (1). "A Devil in the Gates".

Introd:- (1). Tonight talk about a devil. Peculiar devil. Potent devil. Popular? devil. Great part of Satan's subtlety lies in fact he is full of diversity..wiles, snares diversions, distractions, all points of temptation compass mastered by him, grad of Univ of Diversity! While resist in one direc..massing force to hit from another. True?

(2). How alert we ought to be! How carefully we ought to learn lessons of this Book! And espec. those partic. applic to our day..and to church of J.C. The fiery darts are flying..but remember the more subtle beguilements being spread. II Cor. 11:3.."Beguile".."to cheat completely". Look out!

I. Then open the Great Guide-Book with me..read again message

(a). If want know how Satan attacks X'ns today..read how he did it long ago. He may invent new approaches..but basic methods remain. Although master of diversity..not God. God is unlimited..ev. flower..leaf..person diff..Devil limited. We CAN learn his ways..and defeat them.

(b) (When Satan defeated, denounced, dethroned, dispossessed at and thru Cross..he did not surrender) Often had tried kill X..prevent by slaughter of innocents..murderous jealous of own townsmen..storm on Galilee..rage of demoniacs..But Cross reached..life laid down..blood shed..redemption purchase..and the Saviour went home..and SAT DOWN..work done.

(c). Satan immed. turned all attack on church. Christ has two bodies..Physical..Church..Both brought into being mirac. Took 1st to heaven..Told other body, church, to GO TELL. Satan failed to keep X from Cross..so attacks church to keep message from world. His supreme strategy today! Satan has to fight church bec. ministry of reconcil committed to church. Fight on. Satan said: "The church has got to go down"..Jesus said: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

II. Look with me at some of attacks made on church..and men.

(a). Devil's first strategy was "KILL IT". Stephen stoned. Saul raised up..X'ns died. Later James killed by Herod..Apostles arrested..threatened. To no avail. Ever kick a seeding thistle? Acts 8:3-4.

(b). Second strategy was to blind the church by racial prej. Gospel kept by Jews, for Jews..up to Acts 10. They thought they were object and end of God's plan and affection instead of channel for His blessing to world. Some today. Actually Gentiles out to be evangelized by the Jews! In like manner many X'ns have selfish ideas about H.G. "For me..blessing". But H.G. wants make us all channels..not reservoirs..parks. And sometimes racial prej. lays hold on X'ns. God forbid!

Defeated..God moved Peter..then Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Tim.....
 (c). Third strategy against Gospel..CONFIN IT! Of Paul espec.
 Satan said:- "This man must go down". Persec. unbelievably..
 But could not down him. Paul gave the devil fits! 4 or 5 yrs
 in prison..so wrote great prison epistles..Saints in Caesar's
 household..converted jailors..guards.
 (d). NOW:- Want read strange passage of scrip..II Cor. 11:
 24-33. Partial list of what Paul endured..but strangest part
 is that last, isolated portion. Why put in here? Why impress
 Paul so much? Nev. forgot this partic. attack of devil. THERE
 WAS A DEVIL IN THE GATE OF DAMASOUS! "This man must not get out
 One of Satan's greatest attacks. To shut up the Gospel!

Conclus:- 1. This is just as true today. One of chief attacks
 is to SHUT UP the Gospel. a. Seeks shut up life of Y.P. able to
 go with Gospel..shut up to selfish goal..Devil in gate! Gate
 in Bible days was place of judgment. Devil in your gate of
 judgment? What prospects he opens! What pleasures, possessions
 ease, comfort, gain, money, fame,.."Judge this most imp".
 b. Shuts up prayers of ~~missionaries~~ saints..by pre-occupation..careless
 ness..defilement. c. Shuts up money..pulls purse-strings by
counter pull! (store counter). (Popular devil in judg. gate!)
 2. How beat him? Find a widow..and get rope and basket!
Window? May be devil in gates..but can't sit in window!
 Und? Devil may wall us in..but can't roof us over! Window
 gives us the up-look! Above gate of mere human judgment..that
 oft. leads astray. Look up! Aim higher, Y.P! Get orders from
 upper window of your spirit in communion with God's Spirit!
Basket:- "A woven thing..entwined"..Cooperative matter..many
 strands woven into organization. Believe vehicle of missions
 ought to be the church. Get in it! Use it get missionary out!
 As disciples used baskets carry bread to multitude..so this.
Rope. Strange! Rope not mentioned! Neither account. Yet cert.
 there! Unseen rope. Where used in Bible, meaning again
 "something entwined". Takes united effort get missionary out!
 Believe these ropes speak of unseen influence. Our praying
 and our giving that make poss. the going. Personal encouragement
 to Y.P. Exhort..Vision set before them..

3. Now this last. Remember devil hates..resist..sets his
 special devil in the gate. Closes openings. "Keep those
 missionaries shut up". Let's beat him! Let's give to beat
 the devil! And pray! Y.P..get into the basket! Others, take
 hold of a rope! Let praying people, Pastor hold on. Let
 Dollar Bill pull his weight. Get the job done..while yet day!

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