



Can Slander Cause Satan to Oppress You?

From The Pastor's Heart . . .

A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends.

—Proverbs 16:28

Jesus made a remarkable statement concerning Judas. He said, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him” (John 6:70-71).

To what was Jesus referring when He identified Judas as “a devil”? Was He speaking figuratively or factually? Is Jesus saying that a human being could not only host an evil spirit in his soul, but that a person could actually become a demon?

Some teach that Judas had become so perfectly possessed by Satan that he actually lost his humanity. Before we accept this interpretation, let us remember that after Judas delivered Jesus to His enemies, he felt such remorse that he committed suicide. Could a demon feel remorse for sin? I do not think so.

What I believe Jesus is identifying in Judas Iscariot as a “devil” is something that, today, exists unchecked among many Christians. I’m talking about *slander*. In the New Testament the Greek word *diabolos*, which is translated “devil” in this text, is translated impersonally elsewhere as a “false accuser,” “slanderer” or “malicious gossip.” In fact, 1Timothy 3:11 and 2 Timothy 3:3 both translate *diabolos* (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, #1228) as “malicious gossip(s).”

In other words, Jesus is not saying “one of you is a devil” in an organic or theological sense, but that one of you is “a slanderer, a malicious gossip.” So while the disciples were almost bragging about their loyalty to Christ, Jesus corrected them, in effect saying, “Yes, I chose you, but even among you there is one who is a malicious gossip, whose words will eventually betray Me to My enemies.”

Gossip in the Last Days

This problem of gossip in the Church, Paul tells us, will continue right into the end of the age. Listen carefully to what Paul wrote to Timothy about the last days: “Men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips” (2 Tim. 3:2-3), and the list goes on. In the midst of this list of great sins, the apostle includes “malicious gossips.” This is the exact same word translated “devil” in John 6:70.

Perhaps you know people who always have something negative to say about others, who are a sewer system of negative information about people. Do you see how “malicious gossip” is kin to the nature of Satan himself?

By Your Words . . .

The Scriptures say that we will be justified or condemned by our words. Yes, our words— even those spoken in secret with a spouse or intimate friend—are used by God to measure our obedience to His will. James writes, “If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man” (James 3:2).

Words have power. Scripture reveals “death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21). Our words, expressed as a confession of faith, bring us into salvation; but words rooted in bitterness can defile many, even an entire congregation.

James 3:8 warns, “The tongue . . . is a restless evil . . . full of deadly poison.” “The tongue,” he says, “is a fire, the very world of iniquity” (v. 6). And James reveals one of the most profound truths in the Bible. He says that the tongue “sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell” (v. 6).

Satan gains access to our world, to destroy all that is good and holy in it, through our words. The very course of our life, the direction and quality of life, is “set on fire by hell” through the words we speak. If we speak negatively about someone or maliciously spread gossip, the destructive fire of hell itself is released into our world. Lord, help us to understand the power of our words!

I believe God wants to break the power of gossip and negative speaking from the Church. We may have a perfect analysis of what is wrong and why it is evil, yet if all we do is talk about it, we have yet to disavow our allegiance to hell. God calls us to be a house of prayer for all nations—a spiritual community that is mature, fully capable of seeing what is wrong, but positioning itself to release redemption into the world.

Finally, as we enter the election season here in America, let us guard against the mudslinging and slander that accompany this period. Yes, in a humble spirit, let's discuss and debate policies, and pray for guidance for ourselves and the candidates. But do not lose sight of your higher standing in God. Remember also the words of James: “The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:18).

Lord, I consecrate myself to be a house of prayer for my nation, where my spirit prays without ceasing and where Your river of life flows out from my innermost being.

In honor of Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Francis Frangipane's book, *A House United*, available at www.arrowbookstore.com.

See you Sunday: Looking Up, Reaching Out, Going Forward.

From My Heart To Yours,

Bro. Bob

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Salt of the earth

I recently read an article in the afa Journal about salt and light. We all are very familiar with salt. We use it every day, practically everything we eat contains salt. But what did Jesus mean when he said **“you are the salt of the earth”**? Matthew 5: 13-16 records this verse when Jesus spoke at sermon on the mount.

Salt was used for many things in the days of Jesus on earth. Salt was used as a preservative then and in my time as a child growing up and it still is. If you had no refrigeration (other than an ice box) and if you are from the south you may recall using it to preserve meat that was stored in the smokehouse for the winter.

We being, the you, as Jesus spoke in Matthew 5, are to be the salt of the earth. As salt, we are to preserve what we inherited from Christ through no works of our own. Believers in Christ are preservatives of the world, preserving it from the evil inherent in the society of ungodly men whose unredeemed natures are corrupted by sin (Psalm 14:3 **“All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Romans 8:8 and those who are in the flesh [living a life that caters to sinful appetites and impulses] cannot please God.”**

Does that sound familiar in today’s world? The sin and corruption of ungodly men are the headlines of today’s society right here in the good ole USA. So what can we as Christians do to preserve what we inherited from Christ?

First, what is this inheritance that Jesus spoke of? Peter explained it this way- (1 Peter 1: 3-5) **“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”** In short, as Christians our inheritance is everlasting life in heaven.

Secondly, how do we preserve this inheritance to the world? In simple terms we serve God by following the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Why did Jesus come into this world? Mark 10: 45 says, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

Jesus taught us to love thy Father, and thy neighbor, Matthew 22:37-39.

37 Jesus replied: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”**[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

If the people of this world would follow these two commandments alone it would change the total landscape of society. God taught us the laws through Moses and He taught us love through Jesus.

Our commitment as Christians is basically to serve God, how do we do that? As I said before and as Jesus told us by being the salt of the earth and preserving the inheritance of Salvation and everlasting life.

How do we preserve it? By being disciples of Jesus, In John 13:15, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet — an act of love, humility, and service — He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another.

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you," Jesus says.

Jesus, the Son of God, the Most High King, Lord of Lords, never placed himself in a position above others. He led by serving, and He loved by serving. He washed feet. He fed thousands. He walked to visit and heal the sick and dead. He stopped to touch and heal a sick woman. He spent time with those no one else cared to spend time with. Jesus lived a life of humility. Jesus showed us that serving others and humility go hand in hand.

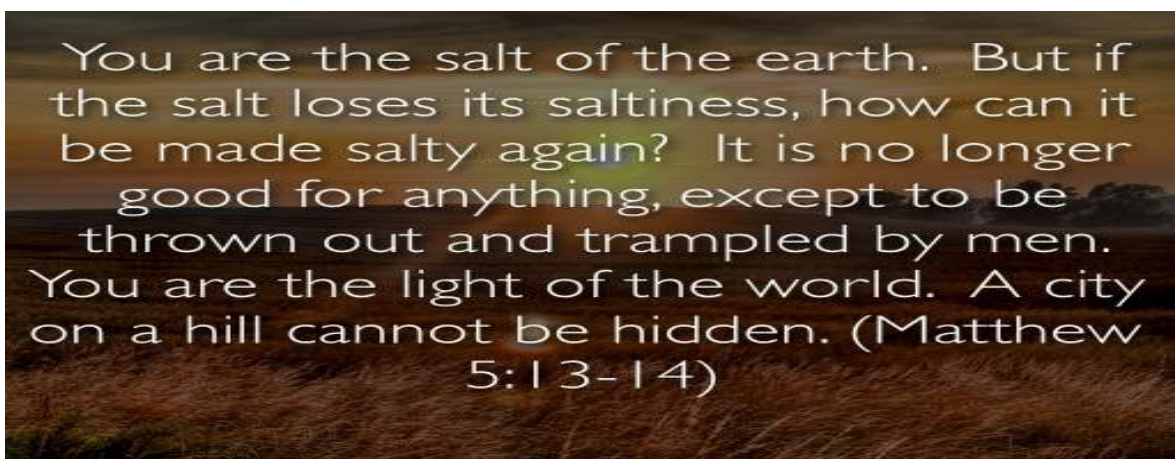
The apostle Paul put it this way in Philippians 2: 1-5 **"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus".**

From all of what has been said here about being the "salt of the earth" what sticks in my mind more than anything else is verse 5 of the above scripture, **"In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."**

As you walk with Jesus in this lifetime in any given circumstance before you act or speak ask yourself, what would Jesus do and pray a silent prayer about it.

In the name of Jesus Christ.

Rob (we can talk about light the next time)





Turn The Other Cheek

When Suzette asked me if I would be willing to write articles for the monthly newsletter I have to admit I was a bit hesitant. She said you will only have to write the article every third month as Cindy and Linda have agreed to do it also. I thought to myself what will I write about? Yes indeed our Shady Ladies are constantly busy but we don't have something going every single month to write about even if it seems we do! I wondered would I run out of things to say....hardly....material just keeps presenting itself. Just as this story I am about to relay to you. Even though it isn't about our Ladies Ministry it affects us all...Turn The Other Cheek. When someone has wronged us and boy can that sting, we still must turn the other cheek as Jesus has commanded us to do so in Matthew 5:39 "But as I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

I am one of the very blessed fortunate women at my age to have my Mother still with me. I can't tell you what a comfort it is to be able to pick up the phone and just give her a call or hop in my car and drive a few hours to Arkansas and visit with her. There truly is nothing like a big hug from Mom! The other day on one of our long phone conversations Mom said Rosie oh Rosie....our church, our church...I just don't know what's going to happen! Please pray for our church! I asked what was going on at church. Before I tell you let me give you some background of this church.

My parents joined when I was 15 years old and the Pastor at that time was Brother Jordan a wonderful man that we all loved dearly. He built that country church from the ground up. Since he left they have seen many pastors come and go which I think is typical in a country setting even though they have built a very nice brick parsonage on some acreage as part of the package to try and entice pastors to want to come to that part of the country. My Dad was an Elder before he passed away, my brother is a Deacon (he is actually married to Brother Jordan's granddaughter) and he is the church treasurer. My mother has always been very active as a Sunday School teacher, kitchen worker and in the ladies ministry but is slowing down due to her age. All of my boys were saved in this church when they visited my parents farm during summer vacations. As you can see my family's roots run deep in this church.

Well they have had Pastor Dino for many years. When my Dad was sick in the hospital in ICU he came and stayed with us. You see Mena is a small town so if you get a major illness you have to seek medical help in larger towns. Brother Dino would drive that hour and a half every day to be with our family and some nights he even stayed there and slept on the couch. When my Mom had to have back surgery he came to Hot Springs and stayed with me the entire time to make sure she was okay before returning to Mena. He would check on my parents every week and would even chop them wood as they burned it in their fireplace all the time. He loved them so much and thought so highly of them. While we sat waiting for my Mom's surgery to be over he told me just how highly he regarded my family and didn't know what he would do without them. I really liked him.

My Mother told me one Wednesday evening she was walking into church and she met Dean and Penny walking out. She heard Dean say, Penny I asked you not to say that and so have I....AND WE WON'T BE BACK! She said she was shocked and looked and there was only Brother Dino and one other woman in the church. She was perplexed as to what in the world could have happened. Now let me tell you about Dean. He is also an Elder. He and his wife are just beautiful people. Dean has recently had to have quadruple by-pass. Mom told me that when my Dad had that the surgeon said it takes a while to get your emotions in check. Dean and Penny have also been going to church for a very long time as well. He wasn't going when we were kids but he joined some time after I left home because he and Penny raised their boys in Mt. Fork and their oldest actually became the Pastor for a few years.

My Mother called Penny the next day to make sure they were alright.....NOT to GOSSIP....to make sure they were alright. My Mother is one of the most beautiful souls you have ever met. She has read the Bible cover to cover I don't know how many times and if you need guidance she's your woman. Penny explained as they were walking in Brother Dino said well hello friend and you too Dean. It made Dean extremely mad which if you knew him is so out of character. Well he walked right over to Brother Dino and smacked him upside his head! He turned around and said Penny has asked you not to say that and so have I and then of course shouted and we won't be back. She then told my Mom that he had said it several times before that. Penny explained that Dean felt it was disrespectful as he was an Elder of the church and should be treated as such. Of course I was like wait a minute Mom....y'all have both Elders and Deacons? Why yes, you need to read 1st Timothy....okay, okay I said get back to your story because by now she has me on the edge of my seat. I did later see there is a difference in Elders and Deacons.

Mom said that Sunday she arrived early as she always does to prepare communion; you see they celebrate every Sunday. Brother Dino came into the kitchen and she asked him how he was. He told her he was very troubled, very troubled and how did she feel. She told him at her age she tried not to listen to gossip nor to let her tongue rule her. She tried to follow Jesus' teaching to turn the other cheek and let things go and not to sit and stew. He said well I probably should take a page out of your book.

Later she watched as Dean and Penny did come back to church. Dean walked right up to Brother Dino, hugged him and said I am sorry for the way I behaved....I love you Brother. Mom said her heart was so filled with Joy she just sat and praised God her prayers had been answered. It was done! She went home with a happy heart! Little did she know the devil was working.....

After church Brother Dino called an emergency meeting which he didn't even have the authority to do according to their by laws. Almost all the Elders and the Deacons had left. It was just my brother and his wife, her Dad (an Elder) and Mom, Dean and Penny, and Brother Dino and his wife. My brother said they were all looking like what is going on? Brother Dino demanded that Dean step down. You see he could not let it go! At that time none of the rest of them even knew that Dean had apologized or the meeting would have been stopped according to my brother.

The next week that congregation was put through turmoil. Mom said my brother walked around with a face as white as a ghost. Brother Dino would call, then a Deacon, then an Elder and back and forth it would go. In the end Brother Dino lost his job....why couldn't he have just listened to my Mother the voice of reason.....Turn the Other Cheek....don't get caught up in your feelings and sit and stew. Of course he was humiliated, he got slapped but he was also the shepherd who needed to show love, compassion, and forgiveness for his lamb.

I told this to Carlos that Saturday after speaking with my Mom and the very next Sunday Brother Bob started his message by telling a story about a congregation where a Pastor and a Deacon got in such a fight that they one of them hit the other one with a chair! It was a good thing I was sitting down because my knees would have buckled. I thought was he listening to me? He went on to tell how Pastors could and would sometimes forget that they are accountable also and everything he said just convinced me more and more he had to be in on my conversation.....lol! I could not wait to tell my Mother because I knew she would be so excited....you see that was the confirmation. Their church had followed God's will....Brother Dino just needed a little reminder that's all...he is a wonderful man and will be a wonderful Pastor again. I am sure he will never forget what happened and will certainly Turn The Other Cheek the next time!

But to my surprise.....when I called my Mom and said you are not going to believe what happened! So I told her about how Brother Bob's message just so tied and could she just believe that? Her response well yes, I am not surprised at all. If he is a Godly man which I see he is by this... God will use him and that was that....lol! By the way when I shared it with Brother Bob he too said it happens to him all the time! Here he is 225 miles away from a congregation he doesn't even know yet his sermon was just like he was a member of it and knew what was happening at that time....I was amazed! Aren't we blessed to have him as our Pastor?

So Ladies.....rest up....the Gift of Love will be upon us before we know it!

Hugs

Rose



Information about Ecuador

Here is some background information I retrieved from the internet that I would like to share with you as you pray and consider if you want to be part of Engage Ecuador 2019.

Ecuador: Land of Contrast

Out of the chasm of time rose the Indians. No one knows for certain where they came from. Perhaps they slid over the ice from Siberia or crossed the Pacific by frail rafts. They settled firmly into the jungles.

In 1455 the Incas began their expansion. The northern half of the Inca Empire was located in Ecuador, with Quito as its capital. In Ecuador they reorganized the local Indian life. The Inca tongue of Quechua was taught as the state language. The Inca introduced their religion, their temples, their priests, their many fiestas and liturgies. And, although Inca sun worship was the official religion, the Inca influence was more material than spiritual. Magnificent roads were built. The Emperor supplied food and clothing in case of famine or disaster. But the wonderful organization and great expanse of the Incas were doomed to extinction. The Spanish conquistadores came in search of gold and glory.

Spain ended for all time the Indian rule of the Andes. Two hundred thousand Spaniards conquered all of South America and its 30 million Indians. For nearly 300 years Spain ruled. They ravaged, prayed and governed. The Indians fled higher and higher into the cloud-swept mountains or down to the jungles, while Spain built monasteries and palaces.

CAPITAL: Quito

LANGUAGE: Spanish is the official language. Quechua, the language of the Incas, is the most important Indian tongue.

GOVERNMENT: Republic

HEAD OF STATE: President

AREA: 109,484 sq. mi., including the Galapagos Island. Ecuador is about the size of Arizona.

ELEVATION: The highest elevation is Mt. Chimborazo which is a volcano at 20,561 feet above sea level. The lowest is at sea level.

POPULATION: 10,800,000

INDEPENDENCE DAY: August 10

MONEY: Sucre. One hundred centavos equals one Sucre.

LOCATION IN SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador straddles the Equator on the Pacific coast of South America, is bounded by Colombia on the North and Peru on the South and east.

Middle and upper class Ecuadorians value literary, artistic and intellectual pursuits.

SPORTS: Soccer, basketball and volleyball are leading sports.

EDUCATION: Ecuador's educational system is tuition free and mandatory from ages 6 through 14.

EXPORTS: Ecuador is the world's largest exporter of bananas and shrimp. It also exports oil from the *Oriente* fields 300 miles across the high rugged Andes Mountains to the oil port at Esmeraldas on the Pacific Coast. Most of the oil is exported to the U. S.

ELECTRIC POWER: It also has huge hydroelectric power plants in the Andes.

AGRICULTURE: Agriculture remains the mainstay of Ecuador's domestic economy. Principal export crops are bananas, coffee, cacao and sugar. The most important domestic food crops are corn, rice, barley and potatoes.

INDUSTRY: Major manufacturing industries include food processing, textiles, leather products, paper products, wood and furniture and household appliances.

God Bless,
Carlos



Ocottober

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Bright Lights-- Katy Stanley 4-6pm Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 6-8pm</p>	<p>2 Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am--noon Growing Strong in God's Family 7pm</p>	<p>3 Prayer Shawl Group 10am--noon Wednesday Night Prayer Group 7pm Boy Scouts 6--8pm</p>	4	5	<p>6 Ladies Ministry 9am</p>
7	<p>8 Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 6-8pm</p>	<p>9 Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am--noon Growing Strong in God's Family 7pm Youth Art Club 6:30--8:30pm</p>	<p>10 Prayer Shawl Group 10am--noon Wednesday Night Prayer Group 7pm Boy/Girl Scouts 6--8pm</p>	11	12	<p>13 Mission Team 9am at Golden Coral</p>
<p>14 Leadership Team 3pm</p>	<p>15 Bright Lights--Katy Stanley 4-6pm Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 6-8pm</p>	<p>16 Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am--noon Growing Strong in God's Family 7pm</p>	<p>17 Prayer Shawl Group 10am--noon Wednesday Night Prayer Group 7pm Boy Scouts 6--8pm</p>	18	19	<p>20 Men's Ministry Breakfast 9am</p>
21	<p>22 Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 6-8pm</p>	<p>23 Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am--noon Growing Strong in God's Family 7pm</p>	<p>24 Prayer Shawl Group 10am--noon Wednesday Night Prayer Group 7pm Boy/Girl Scouts 6--8pm</p>	25	26	27
28	<p>29 Bright Lights--Katy Stanley 4-6pm Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 6-8pm</p>	<p>30 Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 10am--noon Growing Strong in God's Family 7pm</p>	<p>31 Prayer Shawl Group 10am--noon Wednesday Night Prayer Group 7pm Boy Scouts 6--8pm</p>			



Baptist Church

401 W. Shady Shores Rd.
Shady Shores, TX 76208

>>>>SCHEDULE<<<<

Sunday

- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Worship Service
- Children's Church
- Contemporary Worship
- 3:30 pm Leadership Meeting (2nd Sunday)
- 4:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Practice
- 4:30 pm Young Disciples Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Bible Studies (When in session)

Monday

- 6:30--8:30 pm Cub Scouts (1st, 2nd, & 4th Mondays)
- 6.30 pm Bible Study

Tuesday

- 10:00 am—noon Tuesday Morning Prayer Group meets at the church
- 6:30-8:00 pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting (4th Tuesday)
- 6:30-8:30 pm Youth Art Club (2nd Tuesday)

Wednesday

- 6:00-8:00pm Boys Scouts/Girl Scouts (2nd & 4th Wednesday)

Thursday

- 7:00-8:30 pm Contemporary Worship Team Rehearsal

Friday

Saturday

- 9:00 am Shady Ladies Meet (1st Saturday)
- 9:00 am Mission Team (2nd Saturday)
- 9:00 am Men's Breakfast (3rd Saturday)
- 9:00 am Building Team (4th Saturday)