

“Plundering Satan, Plundering Sinners”

Mark 3:22–30

29 July 2018

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What sort of accusations have you heard levelled at Christianity and at Jesus Christ? How have you responded to those accusations?

INTO THE BIBLE

2. Jesus claimed that Satan was a “strong man” whom he bound. How do you reconcile in your own mind the opposing ideas of Satan’s power and the claim that he has been bound? The following verses might help formulate your thoughts in this regard.

Colossians 2:13–15—And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

1 Peter 5:8–9—Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Revelation 20:1–3—Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Are you able to engage in discussion with believers who give Satan more credit than they ought?

How does Christ's promise of victory affect our evangelism?

GOING DEEPER

3. The scribes were religious leaders, whom Satan used to attack Jesus. Are religious people still used today to slander Christ and the people of Christ? Is it possible that a true Christian might be used in such a capacity?

4. Having reflected on this text, how would you approach the anxious question about committing the unpardonable sin? Has it ever been a struggle for you?

5. Jesus faced slander as one who did no wrong—ever. When we are unjustly treated, we must at least admit that we are sinners, even if we are not guilty of the particular sin of which we are being accused. Given that we cannot relate to Jesus' sinlessness, to what degree can we learn from his response? What Scriptures might you use to encourage yourself to follow his example?

6. What weapons do we use in a war in which we often feel as though we are losing the fight? Do you battle to believe that the war has, in fact, been won?

7. Jesus never directly answered the accusations of his critics. Instead, he asked questions to help them, and others, to evaluate the validity of their claims. When we are unjustly accused of wrongdoing, to what degree should we seek to directly answer the accusations? To what degree do we simply continue proclaiming the truth and allow God's truth to vindicate itself?

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long-life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.