

Lesson 8

Jesus, Victorious Over Enemies

Bible Lesson: Matthew 12:22-29

Memory Verse: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

Enrichment Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" *John 11:25-26*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✚ The student will recognize sin, death and the devil as his greatest enemies and will, therefore, want to live close to Jesus Christ in order to be kept from these enemies.
- ✚ The student will know that Jesus Christ makes the believer free from sin's rule, from eternal death and from the power of the devil over all who do not trust in Christ.
- ✚ The student will confess His sins and trust confidently in Jesus to rescue him from these enemies.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 8, have the students add onto the previous messages the following: "bought me, and freed me from all my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that you may become sensitive to the deceptiveness of sin, and may trust wholly in Jesus' protection from sin and Satan.
2. Pray for your pupils. Pray that each one may be aware of the deceitfulness of sin and of the workings of Satan. Pray that each pupil may be turned to Jesus and trust wholly in Him.
3. Pray for the coming Sunday's lesson. Pray that Satan may be restrained from distracting the pupils from what God would have them learn.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

In the culture at large, people sometimes get the impression that Jesus and Satan are on equal standing. Perhaps you have seen a picture of Jesus and Satan about to have an arm wrestling match. Or maybe you have seen the Taoist teaching in which good and evil are portrayed as equal (eg. the yin-yang symbol). This is to fundamentally misunderstand the Bible's teaching about Satan and, even more significantly, misunderstands Jesus Christ's power and authority. Christ is all-powerful.

Perhaps the devil thought he could somehow match up against the Son of God when he tempted Jesus in the desert (Matthew 4). But as that text shows, Satan was defeated at that encounter and ordered to leave. In fact, whenever the Scripture shows a confrontation between the Savior and Satan there is only one outcome. The defeat of Satan.

Let there be no confusion, we have real enemies. Sin is an enemy. It resides in us. So we call our old flesh an enemy. It has corrupted us in such a profound and powerful way we are helpless against it. Sin is rebellion against God and brings hurt and harm to those around us as well as ourselves. There would be only defeat in store for us if we battled sin on our own. But Jesus has set us free from the slavery of sin.

Death is an enemy. It is not a friend. The world will often claim it is death that gives peace, removes troubles, etc through abortion, suicide, or euthanasia. This is a lie. Our friend is Jesus who has defeated death for us. Yes we will die, unless the Lord returns first. With that in mind, we recognize that we have a friend who has already died so that we will be brought from this life into eternity; to eternal life.

Satan is also an enemy. The devil's power, which we would agree is greater than ours, is nothing in comparison to Jesus'. He accuses us, pointing out our sin. Satan has come to steal and kill and destroy (John 10:10). We must remember that the devil is a created being; Jesus is the only begotten of the Father. As we confess in the Nicene Creed, "And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made." The book of Revelation reveals to us the culmination of Christ's victory. We see in Revelation 20:10 the devil being cast into the lake of fire, a place of eternal torment. There is no back and forth like an arm wrestling competition. Satan is no match for the victorious Christ.

Sin, death, and the devil have been defeated by Christ. We who believe in Him are granted the privilege of being lead in triumph with Him (2 Corinthians 2:14). We enjoy the benefits of Christ's victory now and for all eternity.

B. Creed Study

If we are not "in Christ," we are still under condemnation and death (Romans 8:1), slaves of sin and the devil. Christ our High Priest has redeemed us. He has bought us and freed us from all sin, death and the power of the devil, forces that rule over all those in whom Christ does not live and rule. He has defeated those enemies by His death and resurrection. But personal redemption means that Christ redeems and saves only those who believe in Him and have been baptized into His name, and are today walking in fellowship with Him (Acts 2:38; I John 1:7-9).

Christ redeems us from sin

For one thing, Christ has redeemed us from the guilt and punishment of sin (Catechism #172). By fulfilling the law in our place and paying the penalty of all our sin, Jesus has taken away the condemnation that our sins brought on us. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14).

But for daily living and victory, Christ has also broken the hold that sin has on us. Sin no longer rules in our hearts; Jesus does (Romans 6:11-14). There is in every one of us an inborn love of sinning. We like to listen to the tempter. A father was praying with his little girl at bedtime and suggested she pray that Jesus make her a good and obedient little girl. She resisted, saying, "I don't want to say that." "Why not?" asked her father. "Because sometimes I want to be good and sometimes I want to be mean." It is that "wanting to be mean" that causes so much distress for the Christian. Even the Apostle Paul struggled with this, but found victory in Christ (Romans 7:18-25).

Christ redeems us from death

Death is another cruel master and enemy that came when Adam and Eve sinned. Now in Adam all die. When the body dies the soul that is not "in Christ" goes into a dark and hopeless eternity. When Jesus rose from the dead He made eternal life a certainty for all who believe in Him. With Christ the grave can only hold the body for a short time; the soul goes home to God and at the final resurrection we shall arise with new bodies and will always be with the Lord (I Corinthians 15:54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Christ redeemed us from the power of the devil

Satan is the god of this world, and until Christ came he generally ruled as he wished in all nations outside of Israel. But Jesus defeated Satan in the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11), on the cross (John 12:31), and on Easter morning (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus is where the kingdom of God is, and Satan has no power over the child of God, unless the believer yields himself to temptation. Jesus promised to be present where His people are. He has given to His church the saving means of grace through the Word and the sacraments. He gave believers the Holy Spirit to lead them in the Truth. No one and no thing can snatch us out of His hand (John 10:28), or separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

Jesus does indeed rescue us and give us victory over the enemy (I Corinthians 15:57). While Jesus walked on earth He fought all three enemies in one form or another. He saw and wept over the effects of sin that left people distressed, downcast, lost and weary. He encountered death and wept at the grave of His friend, but also raised Lazarus and two other people from the dead. Perhaps the most obvious encounter with the enemy in Scripture is His casting out of demons, literally setting people free from the power of Satan. Demon possession is only one of many ways in which Satan afflicts and oppresses us. It shows the reality of a devil and demons and the destruction they bring.

Rescued From Satan (Matthew 12:22-29)

The accusation (12:22-24)

The man brought to Jesus was certainly in sad shape, for he was blind, unable to speak, and possessed with a demon. Jesus delivered the man, something the Pharisees could not do. Instead of rejoicing that God had sent a Redeemer, the religious leaders were seeking to discredit Christ's work and character. Imagine people being so blind that they could not distinguish a work of God from a work of Satan. No wonder we need to discern the spirits (I John 4:1ff).

They accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the ruler of demons, saying that Jesus was actually in league with the devil. They did not agree with Nicodemus' evaluation of His miracles (John 3:2). "Beelzebub" was one of the names for the Philistine god Baal (II Kings 1:1-3); it means "lord of flies." A variant is "Beelzebub" (12:24) and means "lord of the dwelling" and ties in with Christ's illustration (12:29, 43-45).

The refutation (12:25-29)

Jesus points out that their statement is illogical and impractical. First of all, why would Satan fight against himself and divide his own kingdom? Note that Jesus believed in a real devil who has a kingdom that is strong and united (Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:10ff). In the second place, their charges were self-incriminating. There were Jewish exorcists (see Acts 19:13-16) who apparently were successful. By whose power did they cast out demons? (12:27). If it were by Satan's power, they were in league with the devil. Yet no Pharisee would ever admit that. On the contrary, Christ's miracles show that the kingdom of *God* is present, not the kingdom of *Satan*.

And thirdly, their accusation was really an admission of Jesus' power, for He could not defeat Satan unless He was stronger than Satan. Jesus says that Satan has a "house," which seems to refer to the body of the man who was possessed (12:29, 43-44). Satan would not destroy his own house. Jesus pictures Satan as a strong man guarding his house and goods. But Jesus invades Satan's territory, destroys his armor and weapons and claims the spoils (Colossians 2:15; John 12:31-33; I John 3:8). Our Lord has "led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8) and set the prisoner free (Luke 4:18). Satan is a defeated enemy.

The application (12:30, 43-45)

Since Jesus is victorious over Satan, we must now stand on one side or the other. It is impossible to be neutral in this spiritual war, for neutrality means standing against Jesus and with the enemy. We are either with God or against Him (12:30).

There are two spiritual forces at work in this world and we must choose between them. Satan is scattering and destroying, Jesus is gathering and building (His people and His Church). Jesus described the danger of neutrality by telling the story of the man and the demons (12:43-45). For some unknown reason the demon leaves his "house" and goes elsewhere. The man's condition improves, but the man did not invite God to come and dwell within. He remained neutral. As a result the demon returned with seven more demons worse than itself and the man is worse off than before.

Jesus does give power to say "no" to sin and to the devil. This is the true freedom which only Jesus can give (John 8:36). God warns us about the danger of temptation, but shows us a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 119:11). He also offers victory over the daily struggle with Satan (James 4:7,8; I Peter 5:8,9).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Check student books for completion of activity pages. Give help as needed.

Open with Prayer

Ask for prayer topics. Call on students for sentence prayers. Close with a prayer for God's protection during this hour. Pray that God will keep us from our enemies' power over us.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Romans 8:1

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . . *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

Review

This section is still in progress.

Conduct a quick review drill on Lesson 7. Divide the class into two teams, giving team points for correct answers.

Introduce Wall Words

defeated—

demon-possessed—

accused—

reveals—

Introduce the Lesson

Show the mousetrap. **ASK** How does a mousetrap work? (*Bait the trap, set it.*) If the mouse takes the bait, the trap closes and catches the mouse, unless the mouse is too fast. The purpose of the trap is to trick the mouse into going into the trap and eating

the bait. All traps are meant to trick animals into doing something dangerous. **ASK** Has any person ever tried to trick you into doing something dangerous or against the law? Some kids try to trick others into taking drugs by saying the drugs will make a person smart or popular. Those kids are telling lies. They are trying to "trick" other kids into doing wrong. If we say "trick" maybe we sound as if it's a big joke, but it isn't. It's a deadly "trick." If we believe a lie, we are deceived.

In the Bible Jesus teaches us about someone who tries to deceive us. Jesus calls that deceiver a liar, and the father of lies. Do you know who that liar is? It's the devil. Someone who wants to hurt you in this way is an enemy. Today's lesson teaches us about our enemies and what happens to them.

Teach the Lesson

SAY In this second quarter book we are learning that Jesus, God's Son, is our what? (*He's our Redeemer.*) As our Redeemer, what are some of the things He's done for us? (*He taught us God's way of salvation, paid for our sins, prays for us, and redeemed us so we are no longer condemned.*) Turn to lesson 8 and find out what else He does. (*Jesus is victorious over enemies.*) **ASK** Without looking at your book, can you say what our greatest enemies are? (*sin, death and the devil*) **ASK** Did you know that these were your greatest enemies? Let's read to see what makes sin, death, and the devil such great enemies. **READ** the paragraph to the class. **ASK** Why are these your great enemies? (*They fight against you to try to separate you from God.*) **SAY** Did you know that sometimes devils, or demons as they are called, live right inside people and control them, and make them do all kinds of things that would hurt the person? Today's lesson is about these a demon-possessed man. **ASK** How did Jesus rescue the demon-possessed man in the lesson? (Read Mark 9:14-27) (*He might have said, "Get out of him and leave him alone."*) It was Jesus' powerful Word that delivered the man from his enemy the devil. **SAY** Some people accused Jesus of being the devil's partner. **ASK** What did Jesus do to Satan? (*tied him up.*) **SAY** This same paragraph gives a hint about whether you and I can fight the devil by ourselves. Can we? (*No, because the devil is strong.*) But Jesus is stronger. He has defeated Satan. He can rescue the prisoners. Read and see how Jesus defeated Satan. (*He died on the cross and rose from the dead.*) Because Jesus won over Satan and rose from the dead He can rescue you and keep you safe from Satan. Jesus is stronger than Satan.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— I Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

Review the first parts of the meaning of the Second Article of the Creed. Read together the part for this lesson: "...bought me and freed me from all my sins, from death, and the power of the devil..."

ASK What is another way of saying "bought me?" (*He redeemed me.*) What do we mean when we say Jesus has "freed me from all my sins.?" When Jesus is our Savior, will we stop sinning? (*No, we still sin but Jesus can give us strength and the desire not to sin.*) And even though our bodies will die, Jesus will raise up from the dead all those who have Him

as their Savior, and they will live with Him in heaven forever.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Crossword Fun

ANSWERS

Across:

1. *bought*
5. *creed*
7. *life*
8. *partner*
9. *death*
10. *Jesus*
12. *blind*

Down:

1. *believes*
2. *healed*
3. *demon*
4. *amazed*
5. *cross*
6. *devil*
11. *Satan*

Activity 2—Break the Code

ANSWERS

Because it separates me from God.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for reminding us about our great enemies. Help us to hate all sin. We confess our sins and ask You to forgive us. Give us the strength and desire to win over temptation and sin. Thank You that You are stronger than Satan and sin. Amen

Assignment

1. Remind the students to review the lesson and complete anything that is not finished.
2. Challenge the students to share the lesson and to remember to live close to Jesus every day.
3. Remind students about memory work.