

Identity Wars Study 10 – Breaking the Chains of the Duracell.

– Section 2 – Identity Reclaimed

Zechariah 6:12, 13 – the Counsel of Peace

The Father and Son – eternal relationship now to be broken as the Son of God embarks on the mission to reclaim His human sons and daughters.

What was awaiting the Son of God when he arrived and during His mission on earth? John 1:11

Jealousy, scorn, rejection, hatred, physical violence and abuse, trial, and crucifixion.

- From the time He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, He also took on our sin, our guilt, our suffering, rebellion, and our worthlessness. Isa 53
- He was in all points tempted, like as we are. Heb 4:15

Knowing He could be rejected He still chose to leave His Father's side for us. What does this tell you about Their love for us? For God so loved the world that He gave.

- What if Jesus had failed? Was that a possibility? Was there risk involved in this plan?
All this for you and for me! Love!

Think about that moment when Jesus left eternity and entered time.

- He left the security of heaven for the uncertainty of earth.
- He left the praises of angels for the taunts of men.
- He left the companionship of His Father for the companionship of men.

There was so much to accomplish during His mission. What did Jesus have to do to reclaim us for the Father, to reconcile us to the Father?

1. He needed to help us see our desperate situation without violating our freedom of choice.
2. He needed to reveal to us our incorrect views of God and His kingdom.
3. He needed to remove our guilt and insecurity, and to restore our true identity and value as children of God.
4. He needed to restore our sense of purpose, our reason to live, and our destiny.
5. He needed to buy us time to accomplish all this. A life support system was required while we hesitatingly weighed up our options before deciding whether to trust God.
6. In all this, justice must be maintained. He couldn't ignore our rebellion, as if it was ok. He still desired mercy but He could not override the consequences of our choices. To understand the seriousness of our choices, decisions and actions, we would have to face them. But in His mercy God softens the full consequences, for if He didn't, we would be crushed mentally, physically and emotionally.

How do you think Satan felt the day he heard the angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men?"

- What about when he saw the bright star guiding the wise men towards Jerusalem?

Then Satan saw the infant child at peace in the manger. Nothing could upset this child.

- Jesus was not like other children. Satan knew the battle was on, and he was in trouble.

Satan inspired Herod with jealousy and hatred for the 'New King'. But God has a plan!

- His Son would expose the ruler of darkness, and the chains which bound humanity would soon be broken, and men set free by the Son of God.

The life of Jesus can be summed up in these words: "And He who sent Me is with Me. "The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please him." John 8:29

4000 years of success against humanity was about to come crashing down: Satan must come up with a plan to trip Christ up and cause His mission to fail.

What was Christ's mission? It was to clarify the misunderstanding men had of God, and to restore our trust in Him. He would also restore our true value as sons of God by destroying our worthlessness.

- Years of training under Joseph and Mary, combined with the constant watch care of His Heavenly Father, had established Jesus' faith in His divine Sonship. He was now prepared for the call to ministry.

From the carpenter's shop in Nazareth to the Jordan. From the Jordan to the wilderness.

At the Jordan Jesus hears His Father's words of assurance ("You are my beloved Son, in whom I delight").

- He now has the sword of the Spirit, His Father's word, sharpened afresh, to comfort Him through the upcoming battle. The fact is, it is a two edged sword: it not only comforts but is a weapon against temptation
- On the strength and assurance of these words Jesus entered the wilderness of temptation. The battle in the wilderness was foundational to the victory on the cross.

God's words to Christ are promises to us - Christ's Sonship confirms our sonship. Christ's value as a Son is our value. In Christ, humanity is restored to where it always should have remained - safe in our Father's embrace, comforted in His love, and assured by His words.

Satan was enraged when he heard the Father's words to Jesus because he was once a son of God, but had thrown away his sonship for the false hope of godlike status through performance.

Matthew 4 - Satan subtly targeted Christ's Sonship with three strategic temptations. Christ counter thrusts with His sword - every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (scripture).

As angels watched, Jesus battled, not only for humanity but for the entire universe caught in the crossfire of Satan's hatred of God and His Son. One slip and it would be all over.

- Who would prevail, the Son of God or the fallen one? Light or darkness? love or hate? trust or doubt? All was on the line.
- Can He trust His Father's words? Is Sonship really that valuable to Him?

Think about it, this was all for you! So you might live! So you might know your Heavenly Father's love! What do you think is your value in heaven's eyes? 1 John 3:1-3

Will you resist God's love? Will you deny it? Or will you just ignore it, as if it doesn't really matter? Yes, beloved, your value as a human being, your value as 'you', the one and only 'you' is beyond measure. Jesus fought for you, He suffered for you, and He was victorious for you. To make the most of His love and victory you only need to believe it and receive it. The choice is yours.

The moment of truth arrives – 40 days alone, tired and hungry.

- Satan moves in for the kill like a roaring lion. He goes for the throat: the airway of life. "If you are the Son of God, prove it." *Prove you are valuable. Prove you are worthy of the title Son of God. Prove you are what you say you are.*

How many of us fall into the trap of needing to prove ourselves to others to confirm our value? Either in our family or in our workplace or at school or even in church.

- We hear the cry, "Get busy! Perform and show yourself worthy of your place in our presence or on our team.
- So, what do we do? We either wear ourselves out trying to prove to everyone we're worth having around, or we throw in the towel and just give up, surrendering to the obvious saying, "I'm not worthy."

Jesus breaks through the aggressive attack of His enemy with a swift thrust of His sword recently received from His Father. He replies: "Man shall not live by bread – the performance based life – alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

"My Father said I am His Son: I don't need to prove it."

The first attack of Satan came to nothing. Amen

As descendants of Adam and Eve we have inherited the default mode of worthlessness. Therefore, we are easy targets for Satan's temptations. We hunger for value, we want to be liked by everyone. We need to be appreciated to get through our days.

- Therefore, we often succumb to the temptation to prove we are one of the gang by compromising our standards or beliefs to show people we are just like them and worthy of their friendship.
- Insecurity longs for acceptance; and will do just about anything to obtain it. The secure person just ignores the fact that not everyone will like them.

Story – the chihuahua and the Rottweiler.

- The chihuahua intimidated the Rottweiler by barking constantly at him. He was testing the big boy. Was he as tough as He looked?
- The Rottweiler just ignores him: safe in the knowledge of what he was. He didn't need to prove a thing.

Satan is the chihuahua trying to look big by setting the standard by which we should prove ourself worthy of the name child of God. He says, as he did to Jesus, *prove it*.

- What did Jesus do? He just shrugged him off; because he knew exactly who He was – The Son of God. His Father had said it, and that was enough. He believed Him.

Let's look at the story of David and Goliath.

David and Goliath –

1. Satan - a spirit being - advantage 1 Samuel 17:33	Jesus – cumbered with human nature
2. Represented the powers of evil – victory equaled slavery to darkness 1 Samuel 17:9	Represented the human family – victory equaled freedom in light
3. Goliath – taunted Israel for 40 days 1 Samuel 17:16	40 days in wilderness – tempted
4. Satan/Goliath came in his own power 1 Samuel 17:45	Jesus/David came in the name of the Lord and exposed the enemy as weak
5. Satan’s/Goliaths threats seemed powerful	Jesus words seemed weak by worldly standards – He trusted God’s words

Where do we stand today? Is anyone threatening us, our God or our religion?

We can stand solid and unmovable in the promises of God.

The situation, from a human perspective, may seem hopeless. But there is a stone, cut out without hands which has already overcome the enemy and brought him to his knees.

- His sword was quick and powerful, and brought Satan down. Satan’s lies about our relationship to God have been annihilated. We are free to receive God’s words as true. We are His children and He loves us unconditionally.
- We are safe in God’s delight for us as His children.

Our victory is in what Jesus has already done, not in what He will do in the future. We are accepted in the Beloved. Eph 1:6

- The victory is the restored relationship between you and your Heavenly Father.
- Rest in that promise and go on from strength to strength in the power of his mighty promises.
- Remember he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deut 31:6, Heb 13:5)