


The Trap and It's Consequences!



Luke 4:1-13

Hunters study their prey to become familiar with their likes and dislikes. Their habits, their travels, their whereabouts or hang-outs. Those who trap or hunt know an animal does not usually get caught by accident; normally they are lured into circumstances that appear

appealing or attractive, but conceal a deadly trap or hook.  If you are trying to catch a mouse you would use cheese; a bear will be drawn into a bear-trap with a piece of fresh meat; when you go fishing you bait your hook with either worms or brightly colored lures. You promise your prey what it wants to have but give it what you want it to have. Can you see how this same bait and trap scenario can apply to us with Satan baiting the trap of active addiction or relapse? Satan's full-time occupation is making sin appear beneficial to us. He tries to show us the rewards of following our own lustful desires. *Self-Will vs. God's Will*. He baits the trap of active addiction and remains hidden; using our sinful nature and lustful desires to spring the trap that will put us back in bondage or ultimately kill us.

John 10:7-10 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1. The good news is: "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!" The bad news is that Satan exists and he is the hunter who hates you. His plan is to separate you from God and he knows your every dependency. He knows your drug of choice and how much you drink or use daily.
2. *Satan is an observer.* He watches and knows your habits and weaknesses, thus he has a keen understanding of his intended victim. Just as we know that mice prefer cheese to worms Satan knows our likes and dislikes; our weaknesses and our dependencies.
3. *Satan has baited your trap,* it is well hidden and he has a destructive plan for your life. How do we know this? *The Bible gives us incredible details about him.*
4. *Satan is fiendishly on the prowl,* stalking and setting traps for God's people. He stays out of view just waiting for that unguarded moment when we take our minds off God and recovery and put them back onto active addiction.
5. To alleviate any suspicion or fear, Satan will give the plans for our life a familiar name to make us feel even more comfortable. The wolf in Little Red Riding Hood was cunning enough to know that he could not say to the grandmother, "Let me in, for I am the Big Bad Wolf who has come to eat you!" Instead, he disguised his voice and whispered, "I am Little Red Riding Hood!" *Trap was set.* Grandma said, "*Come in.*" *Trap was sprung and Granny was eaten!*
6. Those of us in recovery need to be especially careful to have all our faculties about us. When we hang out with old using friends, hang out in old using places or pick back up

we are grabbing hold of that brightly colored lure. The hook is set and “*We are hooked again.*” We have fallen right into Satan’s trap. *10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*

Ps 143:3-6 For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead. 4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.

1. In this Psalm of David we don’t have to feel persecuted, crushed, reaching the end of our human endurance, or living in darkness waiting for that trap of active addiction to be sprung by the enemy. Instead, we must always be aware of all our surroundings and know that with any of Satan’s traps there is an awesome God who will revive and deliver us out of it.
2. Satan is well aware of where and who we hang out with. Just as with that mouse Satan will figure out whether he lives in the basement or in the bedroom. Satan sees our daily habits, our strongholds and with even greater interest he can see our “*Secret Life*”, especially those less than favorable attitudes and behaviors that we have kept hidden from others. *Remember: Your Heavenly Father also sees and knows that “Secret Life.”*
3. It would be foolish for us to think that we could catch a mouse without a trap so behind that trap is the trapper who is going to exploit his prey’s weaknesses. The mousetrap is important because it catches its victims while the trapper remains hidden out of sight. Furthermore, this trap holds out the promise of food and fulfillment while keeping the ultimate consequences concealed.
4. Mice see only the cheese and do not understand the wire and the powerful spring. We see only the drugs and the alcohol and “*We Do*” understand the dynamics of the trap. How many more times are we going to have to scurry right into it with eyes opened. *SNAP!!! Another trap and its consequences.*
5. Who is our hope? ***Ps 124:6-8 Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.***

Who is the one lying in wait?

Who wants our circumstances to appear ordinary?

Whose traps normally do not arouse our suspicion?

Who has as many lures as there are human weaknesses?

Behind the lie is the liar. (Satan)

Behind the trap is the trapper (Satan) and he will lead us into a hallway with many different doors.

To him it does not matter which one of his doors we choose, because any one of them will lead us to the same dark room of temptation, entrapment, active addiction, fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, losses, consequences, jails, institutions and finally death. All because he baited us up and we took the hook.

Satan capitalizes on our weaknesses..... What is yours?Satan knows!

SATAN (sa'-tan) (Satan), "adversary," from the verb Satan, "to lie in wait" (as adversary); Satan, Satanas, "adversary," diabolos, "Devil," "adversary" or "accuser," kategor (altogether unclassical and unGreek) (used once in Rev 12:10), "accuser"):

Satan's influence in worldly affairs is also clearly revealed (John 12:31). His various titles reflect his control of the world system: "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31), "the god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4), and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). The Bible declares, "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19).
(Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. One of our key defenses against Satan's trap and attack is a keen awareness of his continual effort to gain an advantage over us and lead us away from devotion to Christ. *2 Cor 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
2. It is not a popular theme, but the Word of God is filled with warnings about proud and sinful people. Those of us who think we don't need God to make it in recovery are scurrying toward that cheesy trap and they are, more than likely, doomed for destruction.
3. Realize that you can be trapped or even killed by the enemy in one single relapse act. The mouse doesn't have to have a series of experiences with traps in order to be caught. Just one bite of cheese is sufficient, just as one drink or one drug is sufficient for the addict or alcoholic. *Take the bait of Satan and the trap is sprung.*
4. Difficulties and temptations are facts of life for everyone, particularly those of us with a background of addiction, abuse or other dysfunction and we may be tempted to return to our destructive behavior. Before we run head strong into that trap we should first ask ourselves.....
 - a. Who or what is in control of my life?
 - b. Is it God? Is it other people? Is it the enemy?
 - c. Is it a controlling dependency, compulsion or an overpowering emotion?
 - d. Some people resist temptation for many years and yet in one act of weakness make a choice that leads them to deterioration and ruin.

James 4:7-10 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

1. There is great power in the name of Jesus Christ, but only for those who are submissive to His authority. This is where we begin to escape the trap set by our enemy, Satan. We must understand the gospel and how Christ's death on the cross was a sacrifice for those who humble themselves and believe in His delivering power.
2. Without the transforming power of the gospel, no one can be set free from the dominion of darkness and be transferred into the kingdom of God's dear Son. *Col 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*
3. Yes, Satan hates us! Yes, Satan has a destructive plan for our lives, but we can make sure it is not fulfilled. We can make sure that it will exist only as a dream in his sick and darkened mind because we have the promise,
"Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Rev 12:11-12 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

***But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen
And protect you from the evil one. 2Thessalonians 3:3***