Four Goals of Joint Heirs:

1. To teach and rightly divide the Word of Truth.
2. To apply the Word to our lives so that our lives are changed.
3. To build eternal friendships in which we faithfully minister to, pray for, encourage and support each other.
4. To reach out through service, prayer, giving, personal witness and missionary endeavors.

Introduction:

- This has been a difficult week preparing this lesson because of satanic resistance. He did not what you to hear this.

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”
12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. (Lk. 4:1-13)

- Satan’s temptation of Christ happened at the very first of Jesus’ public ministry

Lesson:

I. Who Is Satan? (Lk. 3:21-23) Understanding this will help you in your spiritual walk and will correct some of the silly ideas about Satan commonly believed by people.

A. Satan was created as a holy angel.
   - Isa. 14:12

B. Satan was created as a cherub—the highest created angel.
   - Eze. 28:12-14

C. Satan wanted to sit on the throne above that of God. This explains much of what is going on in the world and in our lives.
   - Isa. 14:12-15—Everything Satan does is motivated by “I will.”
      
      12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
      
      13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
      
      14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”
   
   - Eze. 28:15
   
   - 1 Ti. 3:6-7

D. Because of Satan’s sin, God permanently removed Satan from his exalted position and role, and expelled him from heaven.
   - Eze. 28:13-17
E. Satan became the ruler of this world. This sheds light on what is happening in the politics of the world.

- Jn. 12:31—Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.
- 2 Co. 4:4
- Eph. 2:2

F. Satan is an accuser. He accuses us before God and in our own minds.

- Rev. 12:10—But God sees us as in Christ.

G. Satan is a tempter. Satan’s desire is to pull us away from God; therefore, he is constantly tempting us.

- Mt.4:3
- 1Th. 3:5

H. Satan is a deceiver. This is what he does.

- Gen.3
- 2 Cor.4:4
- Rev. 20:3

I. Satan’s very name means “adversary” or “one who opposes.” There is a spiritual battle raging around us.

J. Satan counterfeits all that God does.

K. Satan is the ultimate source behind every false cult and world religion. This is the origin of all the non-Christian cults and religions in the world.

L. Satan will do anything and everything in his power to oppose God and those who follow God. He tries to generate discouragement, confusion, interpersonal conflict, anything to disrupt God’s order and peace.
M. However, Satan’s destiny is sealed—an eternity in the lake of fire.

- Rev. 20:10—And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- We are not to this point yet, but it is coming. Satan’s end is certain.

II. What is Satan’s overall goal?

- He is in a war with God and does everything and anything in his power to thwart God’s purposes.

- Note: Satan is not omniscient or omnipotent.

- Satan has to go through God first! Before he can touch you, God has to allow it, and He doesn’t allow Satan free reign. See the account of Job.

III. What does Satan’s goal mean to us?

A. We are in a spiritual battle.

- Eph. 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Two errors in thinking about Satan’s work and power:
  o Over emphasis—blame every problem and difficulty on demons
  o Under-emphasis—fail to see what he is doing and that there is a malevolent being intentionally trying to hinder and disrupt our relationship with God.
  o We need to know God’s word in order to have a biblical balance to our understanding.

B. Life is about the spiritual battle we are in.

C. We see it everywhere in this world and in our lives.
IV. What are Satan’s Strategies?

A. Satan is after you. (Lk. 4:1-13)

- Don’t let this worry you. Understand that he is working to trip you up and be alert.

- 1 Pe. 5:8

  Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

  Devour means to take us out of play in God’s kingdom; i.e., to make us ineffective in our purpose in God’s plans.

B. Satan and his workers may come to you as angels of light . . . quite harmless. NOT!

- 2 Co. 11:13-15

  13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

C. Satan will tempt you with the little things first; and if you fall, the bigger things are coming. He may already have won. (Lk. 4:3) It is so important to pay attention to how we handle the small temptations.

D. Satan will tempt you with a desire and lust to fulfill things his way! God has better ways than Satan’s ways. We must choose to refuse to do things Satan’s way. [All our choices have consequences that we don’t see, but both God and Satan see them.]

- Lk. 4:3, 5-7, 9-11

- 1 Jn. 2:15-17

  15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

- A good example is what Satan has done to God’s good plan for sex in our lives. Sexual desires are God’s gift to give His children pleasure and joy in a loving relationship. Satan, however, wants to distort this and get us to misuse for evil what God designed for God.
E. Satan will do anything to try to take you away from God’s will, God’s direction, and God’s purpose for your life.

- Lk. 4:5-7, 9-11
- **Question:** What would have happened if Jesus would have done it Satan’s way and taken Satan up on having all the kingdoms of the world?

  We would not have salvation!

  Wow!

F. Satan will tempt you with doubt about your salvation or the love and care of the Lord. (See Ge. 3 and Lk. 4)

V. **How can you combat Satan?**

- Be secure in who you are in Christ and before God Almighty. (Lk. 3:21-22)
- You are His child. He loves you; He always has, and He always will. (More next week)

**Application:**

1. Be alert! Satan is after the world to thwart God's goals with the world. His desire is to keep the world in chaos and fear and incorrect thinking. He desires to sow evil.

2. Be alert! Satan is after you to thwart God's Goal in your life. He desires to sow fear and doubt and incorrect thinking. He desires to sow evil.

3. Know! God is bigger and stronger and gives us power to battle Satan through HIM!

   - 1 Jn. 4:4

4. Know! God loves you and HE will keep you. He always has, and He always will.