**Revelation 12 and 13 – Satan Challenges our Faithfulness**

Revelation paints a picture of Satan, wreaking havoc on Christians. He’s an epically sore loser. And Revelation 12 opens with the defeat of Satan. We see why he doesn’t play nice with us:

**The Defeat of Satan (12:1-12**) >>Went after woman and lost, went after the child, lost, went after Michael, lost. *What makes him a sore loser? Let’s see…*

*But first. Let’s get one thing straight:* **11They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.** 12Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them!

The Devil may have the power to **Disrupt** Christians, **Discourage** Christians, **distract** Christians, but he does NOT have the power to **DESTROY** Christians. Death no longer has any sting, through the power of the Lamb! We do not shrink from death, but embrace that we can face death, not with despair, but with courage and faithfulness.

What makes Satan a sore loser? Well, he lost and there is no way he can ever really win. Satan is powerless over the Christian. He can’t take our life, because Christ laid down his. His accusations can’t stick, because Christ took all of the sin of the world to the cross and offers us forgiveness.

Satan is on a leash, and he’s restricted from wreaking havoc on the whole earth. His strategy reflects his limitation. His angle is to disrupt, discourage and distract Christians from seeking first the Kingdom of God, and glorifying Jesus Christ!

**The Fury of Satan on Earth (12:12-17) -**  **Satan is warring against the** church. Christians, all people everywhere who love God are caught in the crosshairs of the furious Dragon. His time is short, and he’s making the most of it!

**The Beast of the Sea (13:1-10) Roman Empire:** Desires for the whole world to follow him, worship him**.** The aim of the beast is to make war with God’s people and to conquer them. The world worships the beast, and it wars against those who don’t. Satan uses the Roman Empire, and all its fierce might to strike fear into the Christians, and disrupt their faith.

**The Beast of the Earth (13:11-17) – Propaganda, Promotion of the Beast = Distraction**

Satan, sore loser that he is, unable to win, is all about stealing the glory of God and the worship that belongs to Jesus Christ alone. So, an important question in regards to our discipleship, in our becoming more and more like Jesus, is where are we distracted?

The Dragon is consumed with getting people to put their attention in anything other than God and His kingdom. Because we have the freedom and resources to never be alone (Phones, technology, vehicles, freedom), we can just as easily, never be alone with God.

How do we move forward? 13:10 “This calls for **patient endurance** and **faithfulness** on the part of God’s people.” 12:11 reminds us of our victory as well, “They triumphed over him **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

It’s a call to Silence and Solitude with Jesus. Step away from the distractions.

Have a quiet place in your home. ***Disconnect from the world that you might reconnect with God***.

Challenge: Where did the Spirit speak to you? Where do you feel like your distracted? What’s something that you can do this week to reconnect with God?