

Snapping - The Devil's Ace - Luke 22:3

With everything that is going on these days; the amount of violence is very disturbing. Doesn't it seem that the thin veneer holding civilisation together is rapidly peeling off?

These acts of re-newed barbarisms are really individual stories of personal tragedies, smashed hopes; culminating too often in solitary suicides or the destruction of many others. And in order to capitalize on their tragedies, the media splashes the sad and gory details everywhere. This just makes things worse; as it only feeds people's morbid curiosity, and encourages copy-cat actions. You might say; how is all this possible. Aren't the stats showing a decrease in crime. Just look around you. Is there more gang violence or not? Is there more elder abuse or not? Are there more mass killings or not?

So, what is going on? It seems that many people are losing control and just snapping for no reason. The mental health industry loves it. Now they can issue more dire predictions; with their hand out for more money, more staff, and more drugs to pacify the tormented ones. If their approach is so good; why are they showing the same problems in their ranks? And how many of the modern mental health doctrines have been given through familiar spirits. That alone should make it not suitable for Christians. Snapping, or losing control of oneself, & changing dramatically for no reason, has been around for a long time. It is not new; even the first family had it. Genesis 4: 3 to 8 - And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And it will be going on to the end. Matthew 24: 9 to 14 - Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

In fact, Our Lord Jesus Christ has fore-warned us; and so we can prepare for

it. Matthew 10: 16 to 23 - Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Now, how does the devil get people to implode and destroy themselves.

Sometimes, there's a massive and sudden on-slaught. He uses this mainly on those with lesser developed mental capabilities; such as some animals, birds etc. When about to be caught by a predator; they go into shock, and are paralysed by extreme fear. But usually with humans, the approach is much more complex; involving a long build up. These tactics can be seen in bull-fighting. Even though there are different national brands of it; the original is from Spain. The process involves the crowd, the matedor and his team, and the bull. First, the matedor and bull size each other up. Then, a lancer will stab the bull behind its shoulder. This will infuriate the bull to be more active. This results in loss of blood and impairment of movement. In the ensuing ballet, more spears are stuck into the bull's shoulders. After the creature has been worn down; and assuming it has not gored the matedor; he then delivers the final death thrust with his sword. And so, another successful bullfight is completed.

Even though there is international pressure to stop the bullfights; it will have no effect on the devil and his demons. Our adversaries tactics match very closely the matedor's. Never under estimate our foes. They are much more intelligent than even the smartest human being. How does the devil select his victims? Since the Fall of Mankind in the Garden of Eden; all of humanity is lost; in the eyes of God.

Romans 3: 23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Although you may have been born into a Christian family; you were still lost. But then, God's Grace is poured out, and the hearts of some are turned to Our Lord Jesus Christ. And as the Holy Spirit brings them to Jesus Christ; they realize what Christ's Shed Blood has done.

Romans 6: 23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10: 13 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Now there are two classes of people; the believers and the unsaved.

As the devil already has the unbelievers; they are not his main targets.

He will hit them from time to time; to keep them, with fear, under his control.

This behaviour is seen in the devil's henchmen; like Stalin, and Mugabe, etc.

There are even examples of this kind in the Bible.

Luke 22: 1 to 6 - Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

John 13: 22 to 27 - Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it . And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

How does the scenario to destroy Christians unfold?

First, they size their targets; studying them for vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Then, the subtle attacks commence; to wear us down, and limit our effectiveness for Our Lord. And finally, if the devil had his way; the grand finale. Sometimes, he snuffs out the life quickly, with a crash or sudden disaster. But more often now, he plays his ace; pressuring the people so hard; that they snap; and destroy themselves and or others.

This way, the devil also destroys the Christian's witness, and makes Our Heavenly Father and Our Lord Jesus look bad. And if much finesse is used, the people are manoeuvred into a position where God deals with them.

David is a classic example of this. 2 Samuel 12: 7 to 14 - And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall

never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

1 Chronicles 21: 1 to 17 - And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it . And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be : but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab. And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things : choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee ; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me. And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man. So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the

earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

This happened to Moses and Aaron also.

Numbers 20: 1 to 12 - Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink. And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also . And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Remember how Balaam gave Balak the advice on how to cause Israel to sin, so that they would be punished. Numbers 25: 1 to 5 - And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye

every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.

Numbers 31: 16 - Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

These tactics were so effective, that the devil will be re-using them over and over, right up to the end, and in the Church.

Revelation 2: 14 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

And Moses' siblings got into trouble.

Numbers 12: 1 to 14 - And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it . (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

After one of the greatest spiritual battles, Elijah snapped.

1 Kings 19: 1 to 4 - And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me , and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that , he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba,

which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

Now, things were a little rougher in the Old Testament; how have they been under the New Covenant?

Luke 22: 31 to 34 - And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Luke 22: 54 to 62 - Then took they him, and led him , and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Even the Early Church had its moments too.

Acts 5: 1 to 11 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him . And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the

young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

The devil specializes in getting believers to disrespect Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Shed Blood. 1 Corinthians 11: 26 to 34 - For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

We have seen from many examples in both Old and New Testament, the sad stories of God's People who crumble under satan's attacks.

Is there any hope for believers to-day?

1 Thessalonians 2: 19 - For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

And while here on earth, we have the Word of God to help us.

2 Corinthians 2: 11 - Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

As we saw in the previous examples, most of the devil's tactics played on our unconfessed sins. What should we do?

1 John 1: 5 to 10 - This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

And if the devil tells you that you have lost your salvation; don't believe him, he's lying, again. John 10: 28 & 29 - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

The devil's plans are just the same now, as when he hit on Adam and Eve.

John 15: 6 - Message - Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire.

So, how does the devil get us away from Our Lord Jesus Christ? He coaxes us farther out on the tree branch, and then saws it off. And if he gets his way, he will split us off from the Church, family etc.

1 Timothy 5: 15 - For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Like the matedor, the devil tries to get his darts etc. under our skin, to set us up for a fall.

Proverbs 7: 22 & 23 - He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

If we would keep our Gospel Armour on, we would save ourselves a lot of trouble.

Ephesians 6: 13 to 18 - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

So, the devil gets people to loosen their armour, where he can then strike the winning blow. Study the aforementioned examples to see how the people were defeated.

Some of the main tactics are: lusts - adultery & fornication; pride; idolatry; stress; others ingratitude; rebellion; envy; fear; physical exhaustion; etc.

These are all sins which have to be confessed; so that any curses can be broken off you and your descendants.

The Shed Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ has already paid for it.

And the sins of the fathers should also be confessed, and the curses broken off.

After repentance is made, getting deliverance is much more effective.

We all need to make a more diligent effort to stay clean and to stay under the protection of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Shed Blood.

Then the devil will not be able to keep enough darts under our skin, to bring us down, by snapping.

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