

“SATAN’S DESIRE FOR THE CHURCH”

2/15/2026 PM

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: **Luke 8:4-15.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. Satan is always working to overthrow Christianity (**1 Pet. 5:8**).
2. He has many devices - **2 Cor 2:11** “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
3. He uses false teachers and ungodly examples in men to do his bidding - **2 Cor. 11:13-15** “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

C. Do not be mistaken; he has plans for the church. He has a plan for the body of Christ. (Design = a plan he wants to see.)

DISCUSSION: OBSERVE - SATAN’S PLAN INVOLVES...

I. KEEPING MEN OUT OF THE CHURCH.

A. **Luke 8:12** “Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

1. This is the meaning here. Just remove the truth!
2. He’ll say, “The church is not important.”
 - 1) “Go to the church of your choice.”
 - 2) Does that sound familiar?
3. The Bible teaches otherwise:
 - 1) **Eph. 5:23.**
 - 2) **Acts 20:28.**
 - 3) **Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23.**

B. He will say baptism is not important! And if folks believe this they will stay out of the church.

1. **1 Cor 12:13.**
2. **Acts 2:38-47.**

C. His design for the church? KEEP MEN OUT OF IT!

II. HE WANTS TO GET MEN TO LEAVE THE CHURCH (LUKE 8:13)!

A. Even after one sees the truth and obeys it and becomes a member of the church of Christ, Satan will not give up.

B. He’ll try to get us to leave the church.

1. Through discouragement. **Gal. 6:9** “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not.”
2. Through love of worldly things. **1 John 2:15-17 Col. 3:2** “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
3. Worldly pleasures. **1 Tim 5:6** “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”
4. Riches. **1 Tim 6:10** “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

C. Some men leave the church when difficulties arise.

1. There will be times when God’s word must be defended!

- 1) **Jude 3.**
- 2) **Phil. 1:15-17.**
2. Some leave when brought face to face with their sins or the sins of loved ones.
 - 1) **1 Cor. 5** shows the necessity of Church discipline.
 - 2) **Matt. 18:15-17; 2 Thess. 3:6.**
 - 3) **Rom. 16:17** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

D. Satan is happy when he can get us to leave the church.

III. GET MEMBERS TO DO NOTHING ABOUT THE LOST (LUKE 8:14).

A. He may fail in his first two desires for us, but if the church does not seek to save the lost, he wins.

1. **John 15:1-2** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."
2. "Don't take it too seriously." "Don't be involved." "Mellow out."

B. We must never neglect the church's work. Never become lukewarm (Rev. 3:16).

C. Can we just act as if the work is all done?

1. **1 Thess. 1:6-10** "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
2. The church must fulfil her responsibilities.

IV. CONCLUSION:

- A. Satan's desire? To keep men out. To get members to leave. Or get the to do nothing!**
- B. We have a great privilege. We are to be keepers of the church of our Lord.**
- C. May we ever strive to overthrow the plans Satan has for the body of Jesus Christ.**