

#4—A Heart With Wicked Imaginations

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of my favorite sections of Scripture is Proverbs 6:16-19. The reason is that I can clearly identify seven traits that God hates and seven traits that God loves.

It is important to notice that the devil reflects the seven traits that God hates.

This week, let's look at some verses that display "a heart that devises wicked imaginations" (verse 18).

Goals of the devil

When Jesus Christ walked the earth, He spoke about the contrast between the approach of the devil and His approach.

The apostle John quoted Christ (in John 10:10) as identifying three goals of the devil—to steal, to kill and to destroy.

Such goals are contrary to Jesus' desire to give life—and to give it abundantly.

A heart to hurt

When believers study the Bible, they discover that the devil has a heart to hurt other people.

Genesis 3:1—"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden"?' "

Job 1:11—Satan said to God: "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Job 2:5—Satan said to God: "But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Luke 22:31—"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.' "

1 Thessalonians 3:5—"For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain."

Evil plans

History is full of examples of people devising trouble for other people. Notice a few historical examples from the Bible.

Esther 3:8-9—“Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, ‘There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s, and they do not keep the king’s laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.’ ”

Luke 11:53-54—“And as He [Jesus] said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.”

John 8:3-5—“Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ ”

John 11:47-48, 53—“Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, ‘What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation’ . . . Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.”

Acts 23:20-21—“And he [the son of Paul’s sister] said [to a commander], ‘The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him. But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you.’ ”