

Why Did Jesus Come?

[1 John 3:4-10](#)

“To Destroy the Works of the Devil” – December 11, 2022



Introduction

The word of the day is **destruction**. This word has a number of connotations, and most of them are negative. We all have an idea of what a horrific picture of destruction would look like.

Let's not forget the flip side of destruction. If one is destroying something awful, could not destruction look wonderful? In this passage, we are going to look at the destruction of something like that this morning. God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

Sermon Outline

1. What are the works of the Devil?
2. How does Jesus destroy the works of the Devil?

Read & Discuss

1) What are the works of the Devil?

Sin is being marketed in all shapes or sizes. Satan has been at this from the beginning (Genesis 3). It is his craft, and he takes pride in it.

Sin is rebellion. To sin is to miss the mark. What is the mark we are missing? It is God's perfect, holy, loving and just law. What does sin look like in action? It looks like everyone doing what is right in their own eyes. What do the works of sin get us? We get separation from God ([Romans 6:23](#)).

Sin is destructive. This is why everything seems as dark as it is sometimes. To be a slave of sin is to experience the death of joy as well. Sin has affected us from the inside out, and it is never worthwhile. What looks so good at first, tastes so bad in the end. How seriously do you take sin? Have you experienced shame and regret over sin? ([Romans 6:21](#))

We are given the law to show us what goodness looks like, but it is also a mirror to show us how far we have fallen. Satan wants nothing more than to take that law and use it to accuse you, shame you, and have you wallow in guilt. He also wants you to ignore it, but an honest look into the mirror of the law will drive you to Christ. Satan uses deception. He wants to keep you from repentance. He wants you to believe that God is not good and cannot be trusted. All the while Jesus stands with open arms. The reason that you have anything good is because of God. God is love. Everything good in this world is from God. That is the business that God is in.

[1 John 2:16](#) tells us that the Devil will use the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and the pride of life to tempt us to sin. Jesus came to destroy these works. ([1 John 3:8](#))

Additional reading: Genesis 3; Romans 7:14-20

2) How does Jesus destroy the works of the Devil?

First, He came. God showed up. Despite our sin and rebellion, God showed up. He looked upon you with love and grace and mercy. This is who God is!! When was the last time you pondered the fact the invisible God made Himself visible? He knows our struggle to believe. Consider the miraculous love and humility that God displays to you by showing up right on time.

Why did God take on flesh? He came to take away sin. He reminded the Devil who has the ultimate authority and who is in charge. The Devil probably thought that sending Jesus in the flesh was a mistake. He tried to tempt Jesus (Matthew 4), but Jesus didn't budge. Obedience to the Father was more important than what the Devil was offering.

Jesus saw through the lies because He is the Way, the **Truth**, and the Life ([John 14:6](#)). While on earth, Jesus was undoing the works of the Devil - from raising the dead to healing the sick to casting out demons. Then in the

ultimate act of victory, Jesus took our place of the cross defeating death. He did this so that we might become a child of God and be clothed in His righteousness. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)) It is because of God's great love for us that Jesus came ([John 3:16](#)). Do you believe? Do you see the simplicity of the Gospel? It isn't what you can do - He has done it!! Our God is good. Our sins are forgiven. We are adopted as children.

He showed up, and He is going to show up again! In the end, the works of the Devil will be defeated permanently. This is the hope of Christ. Satan's kingdom will then be destroyed ([Colossians 2:15](#)). He takes your shame and makes the Devil feel it. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ ([Romans 8:1](#)).

No one born of God **makes a practice of sinning** ([vs. 9](#)). Do you get stuck here? John is not saying that the Christian will stop sinning all together, but he is also not saying that your sin is ok. You and I are not perfect. John is assuming a life-long pattern of growth as a Christian involving confession and forgiveness. ([1 John 1:8 – 9](#)) How is your growth? When you become a Christian, your sins are taken away. You are no longer a child of the Devil. You are a child of God, but there is a growing process. It doesn't happen overnight. It takes time. Over the course of your Christian life the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)) should become evident. Will you feel tired sometimes? Yes. In Romans 7, the Apostle Paul attests to the struggle. However, we can be sure that we are given the strength to endure, and one day, we will be like Him ([1 John 3:3](#)).

Who do you resemble? Do you resemble a child of God or a child of the Devil? What is the pattern of your life? Who do you worship? What owns your heart, time, priorities, and desires?

Additional reading: Revelation 21, The Gospel of Mark; Romans 7:14-20

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 17:1 – 5 "To Glorify God"
