

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

(A Study of the Gospel of John)

Theft Prevention

INTRODUCTION:

Once shattered... now whole

Once broken... now beautiful

Once dirty... now worthy

Once dead... now living

Once red... now white

Once dirty... now clean

We who have come to faith in Christ recognize these contrasts as descriptive of our lives before we knew Him and after we trusted Him.

But these contrasts are descriptive of something else as well.

They are descriptive of the purposes that some have for you and for me as well.

There are those who want you shattered, broken, dirty, stained, and dead.

And then there are those who want you whole, beautiful, worthy, clean, white, and alive.

Who are these with audacious goals for each of us?

Jesus tells us in John chapter 10.

John 10:1, 10 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ... **10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

In John 10 Jesus is talking about the sheepfold. The sheepfold is where the sheep are gathered, especially at night. While Jesus is using the illustration of what happens to real, live, wooly sheep, He does so to talk about what happens to His sheep, the talking, two

legged, kind that come in a beautiful variety of colors: red and yellow, black and white. Each is precious in His sight. Jesus is talking about us.

And Jesus says that there are two groups, two sides, so to speak, who are trying to get into the sheepfold and to get to the sheep. And each side has a very definite purpose. And those purposes are as different as night and day.

I. THE TWO SIDES

<p>On the one hand there are the thieves.</p> <p>Their purpose is to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kill</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Destroy</p>	<p>On the other hand there is Jesus</p> <p>Jesus' purpose is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To give life</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To give it abundantly</p>
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The thieves have a Chief Thief, just like the priests have a High Priest. Jesus identifies this chief thief in

John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

The Chief Thief is the devil, Satan himself.

Murderer

Liar

No truth in him

The devil is joined by his followers. That is what Jesus was saying to the Pharisees, who refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ. "You follow the devil and you do what the devil wants you to do."

The Chief Thief is the devil

Followed by other thieves, people who refuse to trust in Christ.

Assisted by the demons, fallen angels who rebelled against God

Neither is Jesus alone

The Chief Life-Giver is Jesus, but

Jesus has followers, who by faith in Him have become children of God, and thus are brothers and sisters of Jesus Himself!

Assisted by holy angels, who do God’s bidding and minister to God’s children.

So, here is the picture of the two sides of the conflict and the different purposes they hold.

<p>Satan, the Chief Thief, the thieves that follow him, and the demons</p> <p>Their purpose is to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kill</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Destroy</p>	<p>Jesus, the Life-Giver, those who follow Him, and the angels</p> <p>Their purpose is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To give life</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To give it abundantly</p>
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Each of these two sides is at war around our lives,

vying for control or influence in each area of our lives

constantly!

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

2 Kings 6:15–17 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “**Alas, my master! What shall we do?**”

16 So he answered, “**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**” **17** And Elisha prayed, and said, “**LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.**” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, **the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

If we could see the fullness of the devil’s army trying to kill us, trying to steal what God has entrusted to our care, trying to destroy our lives, our testimony, our ministries, quite honestly it would scare the strongest of us to death!

But if we could see the fullness of the army of God, led by Christ Himself, the multitude of stalwart angels armed for war, and the host of witnesses who fight for us, we would be fortified, strengthened and comforted.

But, at least for now, we cannot see. That is why God tells us in His Word that although we cannot see it is very real. The chariots of fire were present long before the servant ever saw them!

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That my friends is the two sides Jesus tells us about.

II. THE BATTLE

Now in all honesty, the battle between the two sides is being fought on so many fronts that it is impossible to fully describe.

- **A battle is being fought in schools for the minds of our children and teens.**
- **A battle is being fought in our nation for the soul of our country.**
- **A battle is being fought in both the streets and in hearts over racism and prejudice.**
- **A battle is being fought in homes and in people over drugs and alcohol.**
- **A battle is being fought for moral purity in our lives.**
- **A battle is being fought over greed and selfishness.**

And on and on I could go, but in every case, the devil and his followers and the demons want to use that battle to steal what God has given, kill the individuals whose lives are in the center of the battle, and destroy every remnant of the work and blessing of God.

On the other hand,

Christ, and His followers, assisted by God's Holy Angels are fighting these battles so that those whose lives form the territory where the battle is being waged may emerge from the battle not just with life but with eternal life and abundant life.

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Now today, I want to mention a specific battle being raged in great fury throughout our world but perhaps being fought by the unseen powers that be more ferociously here in our country than anywhere else on the globe.

That is the battle of life

The battle for the preciousness of life

The battle for the sanctity of life

I just want to point out a few things about this battle, some of which you surely know, perhaps others you do not.

- **The fight against the sanctity of life is led by Satan and his followers.**
- **They desire to steal by their deceit and lies the gift of a newborn baby from her mother and father.**
- **They desire to kill that baby before he sees the light of day and begins to become all the Creator purposed for him to be.**
- **They desire to destroy what that baby could have done for her family, her community, her world, and for the Kingdom of God.**

- **The fight for the sanctity of life is being led by Christ Himself and His followers.**
- **They desire to save the life God has given, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the beginning of that life.**
- **They desire that the baby, her mother, his father, and all who are touched by the baby's life across the years would have and enjoy life fully and abundantly.**

Recently, **The Rosters of the Two Sides Has Been Clarified**

- **Planned Parenthood, who has masqueraded for decades as being for the life and well being of the mother has now been exposed as being for the greed and profiteering of its leadership by the selling of the body parts of the babies they killed.**
- **The true church of the Lord Jesus Christ continues to fight this battle and is at last seeing some progress in the war.**
- **There are now twice as many Pregnancy Help Centers in the United States as there are abortion clinics!**
- **And our church operates one of them as a part of the Center of Hope. It is called “A Sheltering Tree.”**

III. WHAT CAN WE DO TO JOIN THE BATTLE?

- **PRAY – daily, constantly – This is a spiritual battle at its heart.**
- **VOLUNTEER – help save babies lives**
 - **Help by ministering to mothers and mothers to be**
 - **Help those who chose abortion previously to find the loved, forgiven, and transformed life Jesus offers**

We need volunteers now!

Send your name to

ashelteringtreepc@gmail.com

- **TAKE A STAND – The U.S. House of Representatives votes Jan. 26 on whether to override the president’s veto of the Defunding of Planned Parenthood. Contact your congressman.**

CONCLUSION: THERE ARE ONLY TWO SIDES IN ALL THESE BATTLES

THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

How do you join Jesus’ side?

By becoming His follower.

Rom. 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.