



## ANTICIPATING THE OPPOSITION

### ■ A STUDY OF LUKE 4:1-11 by Dr. John D. DeBrine ■

The next time you go to a baseball game, try to anticipate the strategy of the other team (the opposition). For example, when your team is up to bat in the 9th inning - there is a man on first with two outs - see if the manager of the opposition team will call for a pitch out! The correct strategy at this point could determine the outcome of the game. Now we're ready for Luke 4. This chapter shows us **how** to anticipate the moves of the opposition (Satan). Because we have Satan's method of operation, II Corinthians 2:11 should be directed to all of us. *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices."* However, unless you can correctly anticipate the opposition (Satan) you are ignorant of his devices. This is what you can expect from Satan; namely, three specific strategies:

#### I. Satan will attempt to get you to downgrade Divine viewpoint. (Luke 4:3,4)

Knowing the hunger that 40 days of fasting would produce, the offer of bread certainly was a temptation but the comment of Jesus in verse 4 is a reminder that "bread" (the details of life) is not enough. As you study the book of Revelation, you'll come to Chapter 4 and you'll see the church in Heaven. Chapter 3 is a picture of the state of the church on earth — totally occupied with "bread" or the details of life. *"Because you say: I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked —"*

In view of Luke 4:3,4 it is certainly correct to conclude that Satan wants us

occupied with the details of life or the total reversal of Matthew 6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."* If we know the Word of God which is the impact of the phrase - "But by the every word of God" in Luke 4:4, then we can effectively use our offensive equipment (the Word of God and prayer - Eph. 6:17,18) and immediately come to a Philippians 4:11 mindset. In fact, Phil. 4:11 becomes a test to determine if we really understand the techniques of the opposition. *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."*

#### II. Satan will attempt to get you to downgrade the cross of Christ.

*"And the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for that has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish'"* Luke 4:5,6. According to II Corinthians 4:4 and I John 5:19, Satan is the "god of the world". However Revelation 11:15 flatly states that one day this will change. Get it? Satan was telling Jesus he was willing to give up his position if Jesus would just once worship him! However, here's the real issue - Satan knew when he spoke to Jesus that he was making an offer that according to Rev. 11:15 Jesus would have anyway. What then was he really saying? "Look Jesus I'll give up Rev. 11:15 now. You

## DR. JOHN'S SCHEDULE

### March 13-15: Evangelical Baptist Camp

574 Ashford Ct. Road in Ashford, CT. Call 860-429-2743 for more information. Theme: What the Bible says about the future. A look at why we should study prophecy, the "key to prophecy" and how to live in the light of Christ's return. Messages will be illustrated on the screen.

### March 22: New England Bible Church

60 Chandler Rd in Andover, MA at 10 AM & 6 PM.

### March 27-29: Key Life Conference at Callaway Gardens

Pine Mountain, Georgia.

### April 5: Cornerstone Christian Church

14 Brand Brow Rd. in Haverhill, MA at 11 AM.

### April 19: First Baptist Church

2 Tremont Street in Duxbury at 10 AM & 6 PM services.

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don't have to go to the cross. Take the short cut. For Jesus to take this short cut would not only have removed the cross from the divine plan but it would have resulted in no solution for the problem of sin because the Gospel is the message that Christ died for our sins. "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3,4.

If you doubt that this is still a strategy of the opposition, think of all those who teach salvation by character. Furthermore, think of almost the total omission of the word "sin" or "hell" in the vocabulary of the pulpit. Perhaps you saw the ABC television special, "In the Name of God" with Peter Jennings. Mr. Jennings asked one of the most prominent clerics in America why there was no cross anywhere in his church. This is a direct quote: The well-known clergyman said, "To capture the essence of Christianity in a single symbol (the cross) is a little dangerous, we feel." Certainly they may feel this way, but the Apostle Paul - under the direction of the Holy Spirit - didn't. Read his words in Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

In view of Luke 4, Satan is winning in many places by omitting the cross. Why not? Satan tried it with Jesus and 1998 will be no exception; in fact, Peter Jennings made an amazing observation

on the ABC feature. He said, "As these churches try to attract sell-out crowds, are they in danger of selling out the Gospel?" Read what Satan has in mind for the church in Luke 4 and you'll be able to give a ready response to this question.

### III. Satan will attempt to keep you from Biblical balance.

"And he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He will give His angels charge over You, to keep you. And in their hands they will bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone." Luke 4:9-11

This is proof that Satan knows scripture because he actually quotes Psalm 91:11 but note exactly what he was doing. He was calling for the fanatical use of a Bible verse. 1998 offers two rather challenging contrasts. You are often given the choice of a ministry with the Word of God but no emphasis on the Spirit of God. The other choice is the emphasis upon the Spirit of God without emphasis on the Word of God. If you select only the first choice, you'll **dry up**. Disunity is only one of the signs of such a state. However, if you select the second choice, you'll **blow up!** Satan doesn't want you to see the need for both the Word and the Spirit because he knows at that point, you'll **grow up**.

For an illustration of this concept, just ask for "If I were the Devil" by Paul Harvey when you call or write Songtime USA

## A SONGTIME "HYMNSTORY"

■ Bill Dagle ■

If music is the universal language, then the hymn, *In the Garden*, has to be one of the most unusual songs ever written. That is - no matter what church I visit with Hymn Histories, everyone knows the first line by heart (if not the whole song). Even when we had the opportunity to be in Jerusalem last year, the worshippers there were no different as we visited the Garden Tomb and heard the singing of this universal song.

C. Austin Miles, the author and composer of this hymn, was an editor and manager of Hall-Mack Music Publishers in Philadelphia in 1898. He also served as a music director for the Rodeheaver Company in Winona Lake, Indiana - providing music for churches, camp meetings and conventions. It would be at one of Billy Sunday's tabernacle meetings in 1912 that *In the Garden* was introduced. The writing of the song came about because of a request from music publisher, Dr. Adam Geibel. He asked Miles to write a song that would be "sympathetic in tone, breathing tenderness in every line; one that would bring hope to the hopeless and rest for the weary".

C. Austin Miles had a hobby of photography and had discovered the light in the dark room was just enough to read the Bible. One day in April 1912, he was reading John 20 and as he relived that Resurrection morning, he seemed to be taken back in time. In his own words he tells us what happened:

*"As I read the verses I seemed to be transported to the actual garden and I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment. I saw the very movements; I heard the very words of Mary as she thought she was talking to the gardener and I heard Jesus say, 'Mary' — after which I saw her kneel before her Lord and say, 'Rabboni'. When I awakened I was gripping my Bible. I thought to myself - this is not an experience limited to a happening 2000 years ago but it is the daily companionship with the Saviour that makes up the Christian's daily walk. It was under the inspiration of that holy moment when I wrote the poem exactly as it appears today and that very evening, I wrote the music."*

Do you know this companionship of a personal Saviour? Is there a point in time when you started your garden experience? It was in a garden thousands of years ago that the first Adam broke the companionship. Then many centuries later, the last Adam restored that relationship as He reached from the cross to take His hand in mine. Sin broke the fellowship, the blood of Jesus made it whole. If you don't know for sure if you're going to Heaven, contact Songtime right now and we'll tell you how you too can sing, "and He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own."

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# THE CHALLENGE OF PARENTING

■ *Steven W. Butts* ■

Becoming a parent is one of the greatest experiences of life. Being a parent is a different story! It comes with the potential for deep and lasting joy but can also be a source of great frustration and heartache. As a father of four I know by experience that few responsibilities are more challenging than parenting. Many adults who are successful in their careers and quite capable in just about every area of life admit that nothing has been a greater challenge to them than being a parent. Some of these successful and capable people fail miserably in the relationships of the home.

In the class I teach for Millersville University Students on "Dating, Engagement and Marriage," we discuss the four major points of conflict in marriages; communication, money, in-laws, and sex. When I introduce the class I ask them to identify the four areas. Someone will inevitably suggest "children" as one area. In response I tell them that children actually intensify the challenges in each area. It really doesn't surprise me to learn that in second marriages involving children on either side there is a 60-65% chance of divorce within five years of the union.

What greater task could be given to two adults than to train and nurture another human being from infancy (through adolescence) into adulthood? Perhaps this is partly why many parents feel a constant sense of inadequacy and uncertainty. Where can a parent turn for help? I would like to point them to the bookstores but the variety of opinion about successful parenting found in there is likely to result in more uncertainty.

The problem with books on parenting is

summarized well in the following poem:

Junior bit the meter man.

Junior kicked the cook.

Junior's anti-social now according to the book.

Junior's smashed the clock and lamp.

Junior hacked the tree.

Destructive trends are treated in chapters two & three.

Junior threw his milk at Mom.

Junior screamed for more.

Notes on self-assertiveness are found in chapter 4.

Junior tossed his shoes and socks out into the rain.

Negation, that, and normal disregard, disdain.

Junior got in grandpa's room and tore up his fishing line.

That's to gain attention - see page 89.

But grandpa sees a slipper and yanked Junior across his knee.

For grandpa hadn't read a book since 1893.

We love to complicate things! Grandpa simplified the situation! Maybe Grandpa didn't read all the books because his thinking was deeply rooted in *the* book—the Bible. His actions reflect the clear counsel to parents in the ancient book of Proverbs. In these days of parental confusion we would be wise to anchor our parental roles to that counsel. The early chapters of Proverbs present a repeated plea from a father to his son—a plea to receive, treasure and

follow the instruction, teaching, sayings, commandments, wisdom, understanding, reproofs for discipline and words of the home. All the terms used by this father reflect intense parental involvement. Sadly in most modern homes the TV has replaced this kind of parental influence.

The primary concern of the father in Proverbs is guiding his son in the way of wisdom and teaching him to avoid foolish and harmful behavior. The main contrast is between a wise son and a foolish one. "A wise son brings joy to his father but a foolish son brings grief to his mother" (Proverbs 10:1). As parents our goal should be to raise wise children—not foolish ones. One essential ingredient in nurturing children in the way of wisdom is teaching them to keep the right company. This is emphasized repeatedly in the Proverbs. "My Son, if sinners entice you do not give in to them" (Proverbs 1:10). We need to teach our children about standing alone in an uncompromising way. Parents will sometimes say, "I can't tell him who his friends should be." Why not? May I restate the obvious? You are the parent! You have every right (and the responsibility) to tell your children who they can keep as company. I've spoken to many parents who wish they took this matter more seriously when they had the chance. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

**April 30-May 3: Songtime tour to Lancaster, Pennsylvania.** Come join us on the bus from New England as we visit the American Music Theatre production "*From Branson to Broadway*", have lunch in an Amish home, and spend a day in Gettysburg (including an evening with *Mr. Lincoln*). Cost includes: Bus trip from NE, 3-nights

stay at Willow Valley, breakfasts and one other meal daily plus all tours. Cost for single-\$530; double-\$400 pp; triple-\$360 pp and a quad room-\$340 pp. The bus is more than half full now so don't delay!!

## IN THE SONGTIME BOOKSTORE

☐ **I Will Joy** by Diane Susek -

a favorite of our Songtime audience! On this album, she sings such songs as "The House in My Future", "He's Been Faithful", "I Am Not Ashamed", "Come Holy Spirit" and more.

CD \$15.00      Cassette \$11.00  
plus \$1.50 postage & handling.

**Come and Join us ...**

## Dr. Bob Burrelli Answers Songtime Listener Questions

**Q:** What am I to think of future predictions about the Lord's coming?

**A:** Don't listen to them!

It should not surprise us at the end of one millenium and the beginning of another to hear of dogmatic predictions regarding the exact time of the Lord's return. The same thing happened in A. D. 1000.

Nor is it surprising that many of these predictions come from evangelicals. Christians notice the political unrest in the Middle East, the moral decay of America, and the rash of false prophets, some even claiming to be the Lord himself. Those who are old enough to remember the horrible mass suicide in the seventies orchestrated by Jim Jones are quick to add to it the similar travesties of the Branch Davidian and Heaven's Gate cults and begin to wonder if these are sure indications that the Lord is soon to return. Unfortunately, Christians so preoccupied with these seeming "signs of the times" are easily duped by those so bold as to predict the end of the age. And once these gullible sheep are duped by these false shepherds, sinful behavior ensues: worry, despair, anxiety, and a neglect of God-given responsibility—the very thing Jesus said would characterize

those who listen to false teaching. "Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap" (Luke 21:34). Again, history repeats itself, as people actually sold all they had and sat on their roofs waiting for the Lord to come in A. D. 1000.

Jesus commands us to ignore those who come not only claiming to be the Christ, but who come in His name and proclaim that the end is here: "Take heed that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is at hand'; but do not go after them" (Luke 21:8).

What should we be watching for until Jesus' return? Jesus makes it clear (Matt. 24; Lk. 21): the Christian life with which God has entrusted us. The word "watch" means to keep a scrutinizing eye on the way you live your life before God. He has entrusted you with responsibility and He holds you accountable to keep it. Jesus warns us not to let those who teach that the end is near and other such apostasy, ruin our spiritual walk. That kind of teaching can shipwreck our faith. People who make such predictions are false and understand nothing about the Lord's plan for the ages. In fact, it is they who will be caught off guard at Jesus' return. Let's be ready to receive Jesus when He

### THANK YOU ...

To all who responded to our request for CD's. Dave & Jennifer Donnelly have returned from their trip to Kyiv, Ukraine where these were distributed. Radio stations in the Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and other Euro-Asian countries will now be able to use this music to bring the Gospel to their part of the world.

### We Love to Get Letters!

"Your daily broadcast has been a great comfort and blessing to me during these past weeks. I became unemployed and had the time to hear Christian radio. I developed a routine of listening as I responded to various job opportunities. My wife and I have come to see this as a time of choosing to trust and wait for the Lord to show us the way He would have us go."

-Listeners in Auburn, PA

"We listen over WBCI — we used to turn on the TV news from 5-6 PM. Now we listen to you. Songtime is refreshing, uplifting, fun, entertaining and educational. Thanks so much."

-Listener in Hebron, ME

"I'm a High School physics teacher working here in South Jersey. I listen over WCHR while on my way to work. I enjoy listening to your broadcasts — they're right on target. I believe in supporting the ministries that support me. Enclosed is my gift."

-Listener in Trenton, NJ



### Coming Events...

**Saturday, May 30:** "Songtime Radio Rally" at Lake Compounce in Bristol, CT. Come hear the sounds of Southern Gospel with Dr. John, Dave & Dave at the oldest continuous operating theme park in the United States. Bill Dagle of "Hymn Histories" is coordinating this effort and will also be with us on that Saturday. More on this event in the days ahead.

**September 17-25:** Our fourth annual **Bermuda retreat at Willowbank**. Always a wonderful time as Dr. John opens the Word each morning, delicious meals, delightful friends and days filled with activity. Cost for Garden View rooms: single-\$1580, double-\$1280 pp, triple-\$1165 pp. Water view rooms are for single-\$1750, double-\$1450 pp and triple-\$1275 pp. For brochure & registration, call the office. This cost includes 9 days/8 nights at Willowbank, breakfast & full-course dinner daily, hotel & departure tax, cab to Willowbank, 5-day bus & ferry pass. Airfare & tour costs are not included.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are aware that some of you are receiving duplicate mailings and we would appreciate your letting us know the Account #'s, incorrect spelling or addresses so that we can have our data base as accurate as possible. Reminder that receipts are always sent out two months after gifts are received by us. This is due to the coordination of our newsletter mailing and the printing schedule.