

July 17, 2016

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XIX

Tradition is surprisingly fragile. Once a link of the chain is broken, it is extremely difficult to reattach—and if it effects a second link—almost impossible. What often happens in many disciplines is that an older generation assumes that the younger generation knows how and why certain things are done. We can see this in everything from sports practices to cooking recipes.

The Enemy and spiritual warfare

Last week we began talking about the Devil. He is a fallen angel (Lucifer is the ‘highest’ angel ever created). He (and all other fallen angels) retains his angelic nature which is spiritual, not material. He is dis-graced and has no hope (or desire) of salvation. His desire is to corrupt you and your relationship with God our Heavenly Father.

We also spoke last week about how the Devil has a plan for you, and how he knows everything about you from your conception to this moment. He knows your habits, weaknesses, strengths, fears, knowledge, and tendencies. He does not know the future, but he can predict an outcome with a high degree of certainty.

Imagine if you knew everything that there is to know about this world—all science and each and every person’s total history. Imagine if you could leverage that knowledge by being able to instantaneously process it in order to set into action a plan to bring about your chosen outcome. He is not to be trifled with.

On the other hand, he is not omniscient. He does *not* know what you are thinking or what God (or a Saint or Holy Angel) is saying or doing with you until it comes to fruition. He *can* be surprised.

He is absolutely malicious. He also has the same mentality as a bully and will tend to avoid a direct confrontation if he is resisted. He prefers to tempt us into corruption by our own sinfully appealing choices: ‘Have some more Turkish Delight...’ (for those of you who have read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*).

However, his greatest weapon is Fear and he will have recourse to it and other more overt attacks if we do manage to resist temptation. The fact of the matter is that by nature, he could do anything he wants to us. He must answer to God, though, and our Heavenly Father never lets us out of His protecting sight unless we place ourselves beyond His protection by our choices.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear...” (1Jn 4:18) “So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”(James 4:7) When we consciously invoke God’s Presence (and subsequent protection) He who is Love drives Fear away from us and strengthens us to resist.

Next week we will talk about some weapons at *our* disposal.

*Fr. Michael*