

9-20-20
THE DEVIL HAS YOUR NUMBER
SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HATH HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

You know, the devil has been around a lot more years than you and I have been. He has had thousands of years to observe human behavior. As he observes men through the years he has noted that when faced with death, or a life and death situation, people will compromise what they say they believe.

Years ago we had a little pamphlet put out by CLA called conviction verses preference. In that little pamphlet it told the story of a Amish man Jonas Yoder who refused to send his kids to public school because of religious convictions. He was threatened with prison, and a host of other things. He lost many court battles and finally his case was heard in the Supreme Court.

He lost in all the lower courts, but in the Supreme Court it was decided that Jonas Yoder had a religious conviction and because of his religious conviction he did not have to send his children to the government's public schools.

What the Supreme Court decided in this case was that only those who have a religious conviction would fall under the protection of the first amendment right of free exercise of religion.

They concluded that a person who has a religious preference was not protected under the 1st amendment, only those who have a religious conviction. The difference is this, a religious preference is something that you prefer highly but will change under pressure. But a conviction is something you believe is ordered by God and no amount of pressure can change that. In other words, if you are threatened by prison you will not change, if you are threatened by death itself you cannot change, it is a conviction. A preference is something that if enough pressure is applied in your life you will cave and give in.

This is what the devil meant when he said, to the Lord:

Job 2:4 Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

My question to you this morning is how many convictions do you really have?

Daniel had a conviction about praying three times a day. His conviction was so great that when the King made a decree against it and it was going to cost him his life to obey his conviction, he did not compromise.

He also had a conviction as a young man about not defiling his life with the King's wine and meat. He was willing to take a stand. Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-nego had a conviction about not bowing down to Nebuchadnezzar's image. So much so, that they were willing to be cast into the fiery furnace.

Polycarp's Martyrdom Is A Prime Example of Someone With Convictions.

1. Polycarp had a vision of his martyrdom before it happened:

While he was praying, he had a vision of the pillow under his head in flames. He said prophetically to those who were with him, " I will be burnt alive."

2. He was betrayed like our Lord by two young men who were tortured into giving up his location.

They seized two young men from his own household and tortured them into confession. The sheriff, called Herod, was impatient to bring Polycarp to the stadium, so that he might fulfill his special role, to share the sufferings of Christ, while those who betrayed him would be punished like Judas.

3. The Arrest.

The police and horsemen came with the young man at suppertime on the Friday with their usual weapons, as if coming out against a robber. That evening, they found him lying down in the upper room of a cottage. He could have escaped but he refused

saying, "God's will be done." When he heard that they had come, he went down and spoke with them. They were amazed at his age and steadfastness, and some of them said. "Why did we go to so much trouble to capture a man like this?" Immediately he called for food and drink for them, and asked for an hour to pray uninterrupted. They agreed, and he stood and prayed, so full of the grace of God, that he could not stop for two hours. The men were astounded and many of them regretted coming to arrest such a godly and venerable an old man.

4. Entering the City.

When he finished praying. they put him on a donkey, and took him into the city.

5. Polycarp Refuses to Deny Jesus.

As Polycarp was being taken into the arena, a voice came to him from heaven: "Be strong, Polycarp and play the man!" No one saw who had spoken, but our brothers who were there heard the voice. When the crowd heard that Polycarp had been captured, there was an uproar. The Proconsul asked him whether he was Polycarp. On hearing that he was, he tried to persuade him to apostatize, saying, "Have respect for your old age, swear by the fortune of Caesar. Repent, and say, `Down with the Atheists!'" Polycarp looked grimly at the wicked heathen multitude in the stadium, and gesturing towards them, he said, "Down with the Atheists!" "Swear," urged the Proconsul, "reproach Christ, and I will set you free."

"86 years have I have served Him," Polycarp declared, "and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

6. More Attempts to Make Him Submit.

"I have wild animals here," the Proconsul said. "I will throw you to them if you do not repent." "Call them," Polycarp replied. "It is unthinkable for me to repent from what is good to turn to what is evil. I will be glad though to be changed from evil to righteousness." "If you despise the animals, I will have you burned." "You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and is then extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. Why are you waiting? Bring on whatever you want."

7. The Fire is Prepared.

It was all done in the time it takes to tell. The crowd collected wood and bundles of sticks from the shops and public baths. The Jews, as usual, were keen to help. When the pile was ready, Polycarp took off his outer clothes, undid his belt, and tried to take off his sandals - something he was not used to, as the faithful always raced to do it for him, each wanting to be the one to touch his skin - this is how good his life was. But when they went to fix him with nails, he said, "Leave me as I am, for he that gives me strength to endure the fire, will enable me not to struggle, without the help of your nails."

8. Polycarp Prays.

So they simply bound him with his hands behind him like a distinguished ram chosen from a great flock for sacrifice. Ready to be an acceptable burnt-offering to God, he looked up to heaven, and said, "O Lord God Almighty, the Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of you, the God of angels, powers and every creature, and of all the righteous who live before you, I give you thanks that you count me worthy to be numbered among your martyrs, sharing the cup of Christ and the resurrection to eternal life, both of soul and body, through the immortality of the Holy Spirit. May I be received this day as an acceptable sacrifice, as you, the true God, have predestined, revealed to me, and now fulfilled. I praise you for all these things, I bless you and glorify you, along with the everlasting Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. To you, with Him, through the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and forever. Amen."

9. A Miracle.

Then the fire was lit, and the flame blazed furiously. We who were privileged to witness it saw a great miracle, and this is why we have been preserved, to tell the story. The fire shaped itself into the form of an arch, like the sail of a ship when filled with the wind, and formed a circle around the body of the martyr. Inside it, he looked not like flesh that is burnt, but like bread that is baked, or gold and silver glowing in a furnace. And we smelt a sweet scent, like frankincense or some such precious spices.

10. The Death of Polycarp.

Eventually, when those wicked men saw that his body could not be consumed by the fire, they commanded an executioner to pierce him with a dagger. When he did this such a great quantity of blood flowed that the fire was extinguished. The crowd were amazed at the difference between the unbelievers and the elect - of whom the great Polycarp was surely one, having in our own times been an apostolic and prophetic teacher, and bishop of the Church in Smyrna. For every word he spoke either has been or shall be accomplished.

11. The Body.

When the Enemy saw the wonder of his martyrdom, his blameless life and now his crowning with immortality, he did his utmost to stop us keeping any memorial of him or taking possession of his holy body. He inspired Nicetes, the father of Herod, along with the Jews to ask the governor not to hand over his body for burial. "They might turn from worshipping the crucified one," he said, "only to start worshipping this one." They did not realize that it is impossible for us to abandon Christ who suffered for the salvation of the world, or to worship any other..

12. Celebrations.

The centurion then, seeing the disturbance caused by the Jews, took the body and publicly burnt it. Later, we collected up his bones, more precious than jewels and better purified than gold, and put them in an appropriate place where, the Lord willing, we shall celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom each year with joy and rejoicing, both to remember those who have run their race and to prepare those yet to walk in their steps.

13. Polycarp's Reward.

This is the story of the blessed Polycarp, the twelfth martyr in Smyrna, though he has a unique place memory of all people, being remembered even by all the heathen. He was not merely an illustrious teacher, but also a pre-eminent martyr, whose death all desire to imitate, being altogether consistent with the Gospel of Christ. Having overcome the unjust governor with patience and acquired the crown of immortality, he now, with the apostles and all the righteous, glorifies God the Father with joy, and blesses our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls, the Ruler of our bodies, and the Shepherd of the Church throughout the world.

Now there are few like these great saints of the past who would not compromise their faith, and not even death could dissuade them from serving the Lord of glory.

Now this morning I want to consider this statement or observation that the devil made about human behaviour:

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

The title of my message is simply:

**THE DEVIL HAS YOUR NUMBER.
HE IS BETTING THAT THIS IS TRUE ABOUT YOU.
SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HATH HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE.**

Consider this:

I. YOU WILL COMPROMISE UNLESS YOU HAVE A CONVICTION ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

If you do not have spiritual convictions then I can say to you.

THE DEVIL HAS YOUR NUMBER.

How do you get a conviction?

1. You need to come to a point in your life that you have surrendered your life completely to the Lord.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Death to self is when you have no agenda, you have no earthly ambitions, your life is to live for Christ and Christ alone.

There are very few people that have reached this point in their lives.

The devil, observes that 99% of the people in the world, have no convictions.

2. You need to realize that in Christ, to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Do we really believe that?

Do we believe that there is something better waiting for us?

As a Christian, we do not look at death as a friend. Death is the ultimate enemy that Christ has defeated. Remember He has defeated death.

By faith we should believe that He has given to us the same victory.

3. To gain spiritual convictions you need to come to a point in your life that you have lost your life for Christ already.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

If you have found your life, in this world, you will be hesitant to lose it for the Lord.

We have too many opportunistic Christians. In other words, they are living for this life, for their goals in this life, they have their agendas.

Think about this, we serve a Christ, a saviour who surrendered His life for us, He had no illusions of grandeur in this life. He knew why He came into the world.

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

As He is so are we in this world.

Think about what He was in this world.

Is there any greater achievement in this life than to be like Christ?

Is there any higher attainment?

Any higher goal?

Can you identify with Christ?

Or does the devil have your number?

4. *A person with spiritual convictions is a person whose life goal is to be like Christ and to obey Christ.*

Simply put, this is how we should live.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Matthew 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Matthew 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

**II. *What is the Evidence that the Devil has your number?
Your compromises in this life because of gain in this world is the evidence.***

The devil knows what to throw at you.

In Matt. Chapter 4 he has three things he tries to tempt us all with.

1. *THE LUST OF THE FLESH.*

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

What did the devil do to Job? He brought pain into his life, sickness, affliction, pain to the point that he wished he were dead.

Skin for skin, the devil said.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

I have seen people who were on their death beds who were bitter and angry at God.

I have seen other people who all the way to the grave had a sweet spirit about them. Without Christ, you will face that day as a miserable person.

Sickness, illness, and pain, are trials and tribulations that each of us are going to face. We can face these with grace or we can go down, kicking at God, bitter and miserable in the process.

The devil said, touch his flesh and he will curse you to your face.

I remember visiting some people who were on their death beds, who when I came to pray with them, they just turned their backs on me. They did not even acknowledge I was there. When I said to them, I have come to pray with you, they would not even acknowledge the need to pray in their last hours.

What is there not to understand about this process?

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each day we are alive it is a gift from God.

You have no power in that day,

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

I had a uncle who was deathly afraid of heights, and he would not as much as climb a ladder to do anything in his house. He was paranoid that someday he would die falling off a ladder or falling off a roof, etc. In the process of time, he needed a deck put on his house, so he hired some carpenters to do the work for him. It was a high porch. They put up some temporary, railings on the porch and he leaned against one of the railings and fell off the porch and died.

Look, Solomon said, there is no power that you can have in the day, to retain the spirit, there is no discharge in that war. Neither shall wickedness deliver you in that day.

Will you thwart God's plan? What can you do to add one day to your life? The best thing you can do is obey God and make sure you are in His will.

We are seeing a lot of people worried about this Covid pandemic. I wouldn't worry about that, I'd worry about not obeying the Lord!

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

When Polycarp was threatened with being put to death in fire, he said,

"You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and is then extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. Why are you waiting? Bring on whatever you want."

Will Covid keep you from obeying God? I hope not!

Think about what Job suffered.

He lost all his children. I have seen people abandon the Lord because a loved one dies, a child, a wife, a husband, a loved one.

He lost all his goods. I have seen many people get bitter at God when they lose their livelihood, business, house, etc..

He lost friends, he said this.

Job 30:1 But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock.

Job 30:9 And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword.

Job 30:10 They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face.

Job 19:21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

Job 19:22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

His own wife turned on Him.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

But in all this, the devil said, SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HATH HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE.

He said, I can get Job to compromise, just by threatening him with death, and sickness.

Look, we say we have convictions, just how strong are our convictions?

The devil said, I have your number, let me threaten you with sickness, and you will compromise.

The devil says, I have your number, skin for skin all that a man has he will give for his life. If your life is threatened, we will see how you will serve God.

If your life is threatened, you will compromise.

If your life is threatened, you will stop doing what you know you should do.

For fear of death.

For fear of sickness, what a person will do?

One day I made a hospital visit, and I noticed, the parking lot was full, people were waiting in line, in the waiting room, there is no lack of money, the facility is large and there are plenty of workers there to take care of everything. People are inconvenienced, no one says, doc, it is getting late I have been waiting now for hours in the waiting room.

People will take off work to go there.

People will be inconvenienced to go there.

And most of the time they leave no better off than when they went there and sometimes they leave worse off.

WHY? SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HATH HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE.

But when it comes to church, I have had people say, preacher I can't come to your church because I want to get home early to watch football. Preacher, you preach too long. Preacher you don't understand, Sunday is my day to sleep in.

SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HATH HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE.

The devil says, I have your number. I have so and so's number.

People will compromise, when they think their physical body is going to suffer.

JESUS SAID, THIS BODY IS GOING TO BE DISSOLVED. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. WORRY ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL BODY that will live on somewhere for eternity.

2. THE DEVIL WILL TEMPT YOU WITH THE PRIDE OF LIFE.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

If you be, the Son of God, prove it, I double dog dare you, he is saying.

Pride goeth before a fall.

Pride could have brought Job down. He once was this great man.

He lost friends, he said this:

Job 30:1 But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock.

Job 30:9 And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword.

Job 30:10 They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face.

Job 19:21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

Job 19:22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

Job, remembering back to the way it was in his prime.

As we get older we get weaker, as we get weaker, we are humbled. Pride can bring us low if we let it.

Pride will dictate things to yourself, like, who do they think they are, talking to me like that.

A lot of times I have seen fellow musicians who profess Christ, become victim to the pride and then the devil gets their number. The devil can smell pride a mile away. We need the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The world that I came from before I gave my heart to the Lord is filled with people who think they are something. Then when we receive Christ we need to think as Christ thinks. We need the mind of Christ. Think about it, was there anyone who was so high who stooped to become so low like our Lord? So we too need to humble ourselves and get that same mind. We need to become servants in Christ.

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

3. THE THIRD DEVICE OF SATAN TO DESTROY US IS TO AFFLICT US WITH THE LUST OF THE EYES.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Finally the devil pulled out all the stops to tempt Jesus. He offered Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

How could the devil offer the Lord something that he did not have possession of? The Bible says this:

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The principalities, the rulers of darkness of this world are described as spiritual wickedness in high places.

I believe everyone that puts God first in this life are going to have to make some sacrifices in this world. Even though you can never give anything up for God that He does not pay you back 100 fold, still if there is something in this world that the devil can entice you with to compromise your faith in Christ, than I can say he has your number.

In the book of Job God allowed Satan to take everything that Job had but in the end of the book Job had double. We read this:

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

You can never out give God. Notice He says he will reward you in this life and in the next life.

When I was 21 and gave my heart to the Lord, just before I got saved my dad asked me if I wanted to become the executor of his will. In other words did I want to take over his business? At that time in 1974, his business was worth a lot of money, along with apartments, and rentals. He owned half a lake in Bristol and a bar restaurant. Today half of my family is still employed by that business.

I tell the story of how when I was 12 years old I had a little list of goals for my life. One of those goals was to own a bar and night club. All this worked towards my dreams and goals. God, however, showed me that to fulfill my little worldly goals I had to make a pact with the devil. I start seeing the nature of the rulers of this world. Satan was the pied piper and if wanted to achieve all that I wanted in this life I needed to make a pacy with the devil. It was as clear to me as anything. In the world that I lived you don't get anywhere unless you literally are willing to compromise your soul.

It was just a few weeks before October 27th 1974 when my Dad told me he was making out his will and did I want to be the executor of his will and take over his business. That Sunday in October I gave my heart to the Lord Oct. 27th and the next week, I went to the bar and told my Dad to take me out of his will I didn't want to have anything to do with the business.

The Bible says,

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

A year latter my wife and I moved up to Clarks Summit bought a New Moon trailer for \$1700 with \$50.00 in our pockets we started Bible college. With no job or money we started school and 7 years later I became pastor of the Elkdale Baptist church. 37 years later and now I have a church, a house, a business, a family, and brothers and sisters, and I have had mothers, and friends with persecution, but most of all eternal life.

I can tell you that you give nothing up for God. God has given me a hundred fold in this life and eternal life on top of that!

III. CONCLUSION: WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS EQUATION?

I believe the devil knows what buttons to press to get you to spiritually compromise before the Lord. For most people pulling out all the stops to get them to be bitter against the Lord is to afflict them physically. Skin for Skin. Satan said let me afflict him in the flesh and he will curse thee to your face.

For some people all it takes is pressing the button called the pride of life and they will compromise..

For other people all it takes is pressing the button called the lust of the flesh and they are a goner.

For other people all it takes is offering them some physical, material benefits in this world and they will compromise their faith.

These three temptations go along with the sower and the seed. In that parable the good ground and the bad ground are an example of people that do not sprout for Jesus.

Same three areas seen in this parable in Mark Chapter 13:20-23.

Some seed falls in the wayside, Satan plucks away that seed, this is the proud hearted.

Some seed falls in rocky ground, this is persecution, this is the lust of flesh.

Some seed falls among the thorns, this is cares of riches of this world. Lust of eyes.

Satan only has the same old things in his bag of tricks. There is nothing new under the sun. Will you count the cost?

To the devil it is only a matter of what it will take to get you to compromise. But there are always the few who are like Job who will not compromise for anything. They are willing to be faithful unto death like Polycarp.

REV 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

To what extent are you willing to compromise to save your skin?

Let me ask you something. Are you interested in saving your skin or saving your soul?

What would Jesus say, don't fear the lost of skin, fear the lost of your soul. Who made your skin, who gave you that body?

Is your life made up of skin only, or is your life made up of spirit, and this body is just temporal, something you will someday shed.

Let me ask you this, **DOES THE DEVIL HAVE YOUR NUMBER!?**

In other words, can it be said of you, Skin for skin all that you have you will give for your physical life and comfort!

For most people this is exactly the way it is!

Let me just say, if that is the way you are living, you will compromise, it is only a matter of time. You have a tremendous weakness in your spiritual armour and I can say, that definitely THE DEVIL HAS YOUR NUMBER.

Repent, and pray that God would give you some spiritual fortitude and convictions. This is no time to falter in your spiritual life.