

Luke Lesson 54 Handout

C.S. Lewis in Screwtape Letters :There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and the feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

1 John 2:16 (AMP)

¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one’s own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].

Isa 14:13-15

¹³And you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north.

¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol (Hades), to the innermost recesses of the pit (the region of the dead).

Ezekiel 28:13–20 (NASB95)

¹³ “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ “You

were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.

Revelation 12:3-4 (NASB95)

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. ⁴ And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Job 1:6-9 (AMP)

⁶Now there was a day when the sons (the angels) of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (the adversary and accuser) also came among them.

⁷And the Lord said to Satan, From where did you come? Then Satan answered the Lord, From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it.

⁸And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a

blameless and upright man, one who [reverently] fears God and abstains from and shuns evil [because it is wrong]?

⁹Then Satan answered the Lord, Does Job [reverently] fear God for nothing?

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NASB95)

¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (AMP)

¹¹To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his wiles and intentions.

Colossians 1:13 (AMP)

¹³[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

James 4:7 (AMP)

⁷So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.

Matthew 8:16 (AMP)

¹⁶When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons, and He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick.

Luke 8

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

²⁷ And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs.

²⁸ Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."

²⁹ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. ³⁰ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

³¹ They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

Revelation 20:1–3(NASB95)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Luke 8:32 **Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and *the demons* implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.**

³³ And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

Christa:

I spent so much of my life feeling like a failure and believing that God was so disappointed in me, that He wanted me to commit suicide. Twelve years ago, I was on the edge of doing just that. I was addicted to alcohol and drugs and had tried becoming sober. Four months into my sobriety, I made a promise to my son that I would attend a spelling bee he was to be a contestant in. (I shared custody of my children with my former husband but he had primary physical residence). You can imagine the disappointment my children already had in me considering my previous lifestyle choices. At that time, I lived four hours away from my children and I had never driven the route to their school alone. The morning of the spelling bee, I got lost before I ever found the interstate and put myself behind 45 minutes. When I finally arrived at his school, I walked in just as he was walking off stage, after missing his first word. His eyes met mine and I physically felt his pain. I could read his thoughts. "If you had been here, I wouldn't have missed my word. Why can't you just keep your promises? Why can't you just be my mom?" When it was over I tried to console him, but I knew I had hurt him. It didn't matter that THIS time, my excuse was legitimate. So many times before they had been lies.

I left and considered going to one of my old "dealers" but I refrained and gave myself a small pat on the back for denying myself. But as I began the long drive home I

started "hearing" God's voice. "You think you are some kind of success story because you kicked booze and cocaine? Ha! You're a joke! You are nothing. You are an abomination! You have prayed to ME to take your life but you are not even worth my time. Your own birth mother didn't want you. Your husband didn't want you. Your children don't want you. I don't want you. YOU MUST DO THIS! DO IT NOW! CRASH THIS CAR!" I was hysterical and pulled the car over, sobbing inconsolably. After some time, I calmed down enough to finish the drive safely but I decided it was time to "buck up" and do what I had to do. I began to make a plan.

During this time, I had remarried. My husband was an over the road truck driver, away on one of his trips. I lived with his mother (Gerry) in South Florida. When I got home, I told her all about how I got lost and ruined my son's big day. I sobbed in her arms and she prayed for me but I felt no comfort in her prayers.

Gerry worked for the Florida Baptist Convention and her job required a lot of travel. It just so happened that she was going on a trip the upcoming weekend. Gerry also had some medical problems which caused her a great deal of pain and she had various narcotic pain pills in her medicine cabinet, It was her practice to take only what she would need on her trips. Since I would be alone for the weekend with access to enough pain medication to overdose, I decided this would be the means by which I would finally put an end to this miserable life. I wrote letters to my children and my husband and went to bed at peace with my decision.

The next morning, Gerry came into my room announcing that her Church's ladies group was going on a retreat that weekend and one of the ladies would not be able to attend due to illness. Her reservation fee was non-refundable and

she thought I might want (or need) to go in her place. The retreat was being held at Lake Yale, a place I had gone to when I was 14 with my GA group, a place I was VERY aware that a person could really "feel the presence of God", a place I did NOT want to be at! Besides, I HAD PLANS. I am a lousy liar and not a very quick thinker so she caught me off guard and I couldn't think of a good protest, To top it all off, Gerry is VERY persuasive so I agreed to go. "As a matter of fact," I thought, "it would be better to take the pills with me on the trip. I can take them after everyone goes to sleep and wander off into the woods and poor Gerry wouldn't have to come home to a body!" Yes, this was better.

The first night of the retreat, after getting settled in and eating dinner, all of the ladies gathered for a time of worship and testimony from the woman who came to speak. (I wish to this day I could remember her name but sadly I can not) I made it a point to be there in body only and not listen to anything anyone had to say. All of that was for the OTHER women there. I was there for a different purpose. I succeeded in blocking everything she said up until the very end. She asked us all to bow our heads and close our eyes. I did bow my head but I peeked because I could hear a slight commotion. I could see that she had walked behind the projection screen and was putting on some kind of robe. It was white and something like a choir robe. It went from her neck to her feet and all over it there were words written in bold pink letters: ADULTRY ABORTION ALCOHOLISM LYING CHEATING STEALING GOSSIPING DRUG ADDICTION etc...

After she prayed, she came from behind the screen. She began to slowly turn around while she said, "Think of the robe as your life, Maybe there are some of you here today that can relate to some of the sins written on this robe. I can certainly relate to more than one of them." she said.

Then she asked us to look in the back of the program books she gave us when we came in. There we found a 5"x7" piece of red transparent plastic. She continued, "Now think of this red piece of plastic as the blood of Jesus Christ and put it over your eyes." At the moment I looked at "my life" through the "blood of Jesus" all I could see was radiant white! Pure and clean! Tears actually SHOT out of my eyes!!! I fell to the floor weeping. FINALLY I KNEW THE TRUTH! Again I "heard a voice saying, "I AM GOD! I LOVE YOU CHRISTA! YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE I WANTED THERE TO BE A CHRISTA. YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I DIDN'T. WHAT MY SON DID, HE DID FOR YOU. IF ONLY YOU, HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT STILL. THAT IS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU!" I realized then the "voice" I heard so many times before was not the "voice of God", but that of the liar.

I wish I could tell you that from that moment on I have lived my life for Jesus as the "model Christian". I wish I had not wasted another second on foolish, destructive things of the world. But the truth is, just like the "seed that fell on shallow soil" that you taught of a couple of weeks ago, I too, sprung up quickly. But I didn't join a Church family. I didn't study my Bible. I began to pray less and less. And before long, I was drinking again and soon after, using cocaine. As anyone who has ever made the choice to travel down that road can tell you, eventually the traveler WILL wind up in one of two places; jail or the grave. Thankfully, I only made it to jail. My stay wasn't a long one. But it was long enough for me to realize that this was not what God intended for my life. By His mercy and grace, I have been clean for 6 years now. It has not been easy but for that I too am thankful. If it was, it would be just as easy to go back again and again.

Luke 8:34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and *out* in the country. **35** *The people* went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. **36** Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well. **37** And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned.

2 Corinthians 2:15–16 (NASB95)

15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; **16** to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

Luke 8:38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, **39** “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

**Your story is
the key that
can unlock
someone else's
prison. Share
your testimony.**

Spiritual Inspiration

Ephesians 6:11–18 (AMP)

¹¹Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

¹²For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

¹³Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

¹⁴Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God,

¹⁵And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and

the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

¹⁶Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

¹⁸Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).