

Wild at Heart – Week 9a

The Battle To Fight: The Strategy

Stage One: "I'm not here"

1. What accusations do you hear about yourself? If you can note a few things here but also make a list here of them over the next week until your small group.
(e.g. 'You're making this up', 'You'll fail eventually', 'I'm a lustful man to the core')

2. What agreements have we made with the enemy? What lies have we believed? Make a list for your small group.

Stage 2: 'Intimidation'

3. When you're really going for it with God does the enemy's attack intensify? Do things like doubt, fear, discouragement, criticism or temptation ebb away or increase? Where does the enemy strike at you?

Stage Three: 'Cutting a deal'

4. Are there areas in our lives where we've chosen to compromise? A sin we tolerate, a weakness we excuse, a habit we cling too?

Intimacy With God

5. On a scale of 1 to 10 where would you put your devotional life? Where 1 is flossing and 10 is great sex?

FROM THE MAP

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. *Resist him*, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Submit yourselves, then, to God. *Resist the devil*, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Our Response?

Stage One – Bottom line:

"You are here and I'm sick of you blaming everything on me. I am onto your schemes"

Stage Two – Bottom line:

"I'm not giving up and I'm not going away. *You* are the one who has to flee."

Stage Three – Bottom line:

"No deals. My heart and my loyalty belong to God. I am in this for the duration"

"There are two mistakes the church makes when dealing with the devil; to blame everything on him or to blame nothing on him. Do neither." - C.S. Lewis

The Cross: Cleanses us from sin, removes our old nature and disarms the demons. (Gal 2:20, Col 2:13-15)

The Resurrection: Brings us new life in Christ, a life triumphant, our new nature. (Rom 5:17, 6:5-11)

The Ascension: Empowers us with that same authority Jesus Christ has been given – all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matt 28:18, Eph 2:4-6)