

The Gables – Sneak Attack

Introduction:

The title of the lesson today is “Sneak Attack.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt: Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our secretary of state a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.

And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

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As commander in chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

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Dialog between Rick and Donna:

Rick: Did you know that seventy-three years ago today the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Donna: Oh, that's right today is December 7th, isn't it.

Rick: It was a dastardly sneak attack. 2,408 Americans were killed, 1,178 Americans were wounded, and 20 American naval vessels were badly damaged or destroyed. Did you know that Satan operates much the same way?

Donna: Really?

Rick: Like the Japanese government at that time, Satan lies and murders to achieve his goals of world domination and dishonoring God.

- **John 8:43-45** says, "Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, **the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!"

Donna: I heard that some people don't believe there is a devil.

Rick: That's one of Satan's biggest lies. He doesn't want us to believe he exists. One obvious example that Satan exists is that he tempted Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 3. Let's see what else the Bible says about Satan:

- **Job 1:6-12** - One day the angels[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan** also came with them. The Lord said to **Satan**, "Where have you come from?" **Satan** answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." Then the Lord said to **Satan**, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" **Satan** replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The Lord said to **Satan**, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."
- **1 Chronicles, 21:1** – **Satan** rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.

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- **Zechariah 3:1-4** - Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and **Satan** standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to **Satan**, “The Lord rebuke you, **Satan**!”

Donna: Didn’t Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness before Jesus began his three year ministry on earth?

Rick: Yes.

- **Mark 1:13** – “... and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by **Satan**...”
- **Matthew 4:10** – “Jesus said to him, “Away from me, **Satan**! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”
- **Luke 4:13** - When **the devil** had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Donna: What bad things can Satan do to people?

Rick: He can tempt us, just like he tempted Jesus. He can also prompt us to do bad things:

- **1 Peter 5:8** says, “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy **the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
- **John 13:2** - The evening meal was in progress, and **the devil** had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Donna: What should we do in response to these temptations?

Rick: Don’t give any room in your life to Satan; keep your way pure:

- **Ephesians 4:26** - “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give **the devil** a foothold.
- **James 4:7** - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Donna: How do we know we can be victorious over Satan?

Rick: Realize that we are mortal beings. Satan has existed for thousands of years. Satan is more powerful than us alone, but he is not more powerful than God dwelling in us:

- **1 John 4:4** - You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than **the one who is in the world**.

Donna: What do we have to be aware of regarding Satan?

Rick: Satan is our mortal enemy.

- ✓ He is the king of hell. **Revelation 9:11** – They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

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- ✓ He wants us to condemn us to go to hell with him. He wants us to suffer in agony there. **Luke 22:31 (ESV)** - “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat...”
- He is also the king of this world. **1 John 5:19 (ESV)** - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- He will try to deceive us like he deceived Eve. **2 Corinthians 11:3** - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- He can come in the guise of something good. **2 Corinthians 11:14** - And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
- He may try to outsmart us. **2 Corinthians 2:11 (ESV)** - So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.
- He may try to hinder us in accomplishing God’s will through us. **1 Thessalonians 2:18 (ESV)** - Because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.
- He may ensnare us in sin so that we can’t serve God. **2 Timothy 2:26 (ESV)** - And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Donna: What does Jesus do for us, his beloved children in our battle against evil?

Rick:

- He heals us.
 - ✓ **Acts 10:38b** - God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of **the devil**, because God was with him.
 - ✓ **Luke 13:16 (ESV)** - And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”
- He destroyed the devil’s power over death so we don’t have to fear death anymore. **1 John 3:8** - The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.
- He wants to give us an abundant life while we’re here on earth. **John 10:10 (ESV)** - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- He will crush the power of Satan soon. **Romans 16:20a** - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
- He has rescued us from the power of Satan and enabled us to live with God forever in heaven. **Colossians 1:13 (ESV)** - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Donna: I heard that Satan is a defeated foe. What are some examples of that in the Bible?

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Rick: His destiny is sure.

- **Revelation 20:10 (ESV)** - And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- **Revelation 20:2 (ESV)** - And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,
- **Revelation 12:9** - The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Donna: How do we fight back against Satan in our daily walk today?

Rick: We fight back with the armor of God:

- **Ephesians 6:10-18** – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against **the devil’s** schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the **day of evil** comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of **the evil one**. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Donna: How can we be sure we aren’t under the power of Satan?

Rick: That is the most important question you’ve asked so far. When we come to the Gables, we often learn that someone we talked to the month before is no longer with us. You must be sure that you are no longer under the power of the devil for are under the power of God. I think Ephesians answers that question.

- **Ephesians 2:1-5** - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
- **You must acknowledge that you are a sinner, be willing to repent of your sins, ask God to forgive you for your sins, and ask Jesus to save you from the penalty of your sins, which is hell.**