The Good Time Devil

Sermon Title: The Good Time Devil
Sermon Number: 5026
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PASTOR NATHANIEL: I am going to talk tonight from the subject of "The Good Time Devil" ... "The Good Time Devil." This came, actually, from an experience that I had. I just finished going on a seven-day fast, and normally during a fast you go through certain things physically. The body gets hungry, the body will get weak, and tired, and you'll go through some things. God had told me before I went on this fast, He said, "You are going to go through some attacks on this fast." And I was prepared for it. You, know when God tells you that you are going through something, you kind of get yourself girded for it to be able to handle it.

As I went through the first day, I felt great. As I went through the second day, I felt great. Third day, I felt awesome: had plenty of energy, did not feel weak or anything. I decided even to get away, and I got away and went out of town. I went to the mountains to stay for a few days, and as I was there in the mountains, I still felt great; the fourth day, fifth day and even on the sixth day.

As I was there in the mountains, I began talking with my younger brother, James, and he asked me, "How are you feeling?" I said, "Man, I am feeling good! I am feeling great." And I said, "You know, I was expecting and I do not understand; God told me that I would undergo attacks on this fast, and yet I have not had a single attack. Nothing has happened, nothing has gone wrong with my body, my energy is still up. I feel better after six days of eating nothing than I feel normally even eating!" I said, "I do not understand it. I have not experienced a single attack. I am feeling great. Why did God tell me that I would be attacked on this fast and nothing has happened?" He said, "Wow!" He said, "Boy, that's great. How are you doing on your program?" I said, "Program?" He said, "Yeah. How are you doing on your prayer? How are you doing on your Scriptural schedule? How are you doing on your program?" I said, "Ut-oh." I said, "I have not been doing too good on my program."

He began to unveil and reveal some things to me. He said, "You know, you have been hit by the good time devil." And as he began to talk about it and as we began to discuss things and to understand the subtlety of how the devil works, he said, "do you know the devil is the most subtle of all the creatures? And here you are not realizing," He said, "but that is the best kind of offense to have against the man is to be able to attack a man and he does not even realize he is being attacked. You are laying there feeling good, and you are in the best position you have ever been in. Normally, you work a whole lot. You have a whole lot of stuff on your mind. You have been up in the mountains with nothing to do but rest, you had more than enough opportunity to get all your Bible reading in, to do all your praying and meditation. You have been freer than you have ever been, and yet you have done the least. You have been hit by the good time devil."

It is one of the most insidious attacks that ever occur against us. You see, in the Bible, the three best-known attacks in the Bible, the first attack occurred in the
Garden of Eden. The first attack occurred against Adam with the serpent. And you say, “No, no, that was against Eve.” No, that was against Adam, because God said he named them Adam. The first attack was against Adam in paradise, the second best-known attack of the devil was against Job, and the third best-known attack of the devil was against Jesus in the wilderness; three different attacks and three different techniques. One technique that he used against Adam, food; the technique that he used against Job, fatigue; and the technique he used against Jesus, deceit.

You see, with the feed-you technique, Jesus had fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. Matthew 4, Verse 1: “Then was Jesus led up with the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, and when He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was afterward in hunger. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread. But He answered and said, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.”

You see, the feed-you devil tempts you when you are hungry. And oftentimes in the world, we go through situations where we are hungry. It is the situation that so many of us relate to as the devil operates it. You know, when we are short of money, we can see the devil real clear then; when we are missing something; when we have gone without food and bread simply represented sustenance. You know when your rent is overdue, when you are about to get put out of your house, when your lights are out, when you cannot pay your car note, you can see the devil real clear in that instance. You do not have a problem recognizing the devil in a feed-you situation. The devil whispers in your ear, “Psst! When was the last time you had real money ... I mean, some real money?” Do you know it is not too difficult to be tempted when you are running short? You see, it is hard to tempt a man oftentimes when he is overloaded with something. When a man is full, it is hard to tempt him with food; but when you are hungry -- I mean H-O-N -- when you are hungry, “Psst! When was the last time you had some real money?” When a man is hungry, you can tempt him a whole, whole lot easier. “You know, they do not give you the recognition that you deserve. You know you are doing all the work around there. You know you are the big shot. They aren’t half hearing you, Man. You are doing all that work and you’re underpaid; you are overworked and you are under-recognized. Look at your boss. Your boss is not as smart as you.” You see, the devil will feed off of things that he knows you are missing; that he knows are running low in your life. He knows that you are in a hungry situation. “Psst! How do they expect a man like you to make it with just one woman? Look at you, Man. You are good-looking. You are strong. You have plenty of money. You know you can handle more than one woman. Look at you! You are not the average man. You deserve more. One woman cannot handle you, Man. Look at that woman over there. Just look at that fine woman over there. Look at her. Look, she wants you, Man ... and you deserve it.”
You see, when you are hungry, when there is a gap, when there is something missing in your life, the feed-you devil will step in. And the devil will offer you everything in the world that you think you want. But I want you to notice something about what did the devil offered to Jesus, and I want you to get a very clear point. The Bible said: “And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” I want you to get a critical point, very powerful, very revelatory point about this. The devil told Jesus to command that these stones be made bread; he did not offer Jesus bread.

You see, the devil oftentimes offer you something that is an illusion. He did not offer Jesus the bread; he offered Jesus to get His own bread. The devil will oftentimes come and appear to offer you satisfaction. It will appear that he will offer you the very thing that will fill your need, the very thing that will satisfy you; but in reality, the devil was not offering Jesus anything. He did not offer him any bread; He told him to make his own bread. But yet, he was a tempter.

See, the devil is a smart creature, the Bible said the most subtle of all the creatures. nd in the areas that the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness. You see, most people are tempted. I just got through watching the series “Dealing with Men”, and it was called PMS, and it stood for Power, Money and Sex. You know, those three areas, if I were the devil, those are all the three areas I would be in, and I would only need one of them to work on anybody with; and I could work on anybody if I had power in just any one of those three areas in a man’s or woman’s life.

The devil can see where there is lack. You see, he did not offer Jesus something that he really did not have. He offered Jesus something when Jesus was hungry. He was in a fleshly body, and the devil will come in the midst of a lack and will say, “I will feed you with this if you just give me a chance.” That is the feed-you devil.

The next kind of devil that came to Job was the fatigue-you devil. The devil can wear you down. The devil can wear you down.

I never will forget one of the comedians used to say in his advertisement folks said he had a monkey on his back. He said, “I do not have a monkey on my back; I have a whole zoo on my back.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Sometimes when the devil rides your back, it can feel like there a is whole world on your back. And when the devil is let loose against you, you see, the devil attacked Job in the three areas: he attacked Job first when he took all his children away; he took the relationships that Job loves; he took his relationships; then he took all of Job’s money; then he took all of Job’s health. Those three areas of relationship, money and health, if the devil works on you in those
three areas, then you have a problem. Just one of them, it does not even have to be all three. If the devil just took the area of your relationships and the devil just got in your wife, do you know, you’ve got a big problem?

(Laughter.)

**PASTOR NATHANIEL:** Do you know, if the devil hopped in your husband, you’ve got yourself a real humdinger? As a matter of fact, if the devil hopped in your spouse, you almost have more trouble than if the devil hopped in you. All it takes, can you imagine what happens. You know when someone gets crabby and cranky and naggy. If I were the devil and the Lord just told me, “You’ve got power over their spouse,” whoo, I could work on them! I could work on them. Oh, goodness! If he was a man, I would have that woman coming in, just fussing about every little thing. Oh, she would not have enough money. Oh, she needs a new pair of shoes every other day. All her clothes would need replacing. I would have her get all out of shape. I would have her have the house all junky, not pick up a thing, leave her underwear in the floor and kick yours out of the way. Oh, I would have her leave dishes piled high in the sink, crusted over with all kinds of stuff. Oh, goodness! See, if the devil just got on your spouse, that is all it would take to really wear your nerves thin, wouldn’t even have to get on you! All he would have to do is just get on your relationships, and the devil can wear your nerves down.

Now, do not let the devil get on your money ... oh, no(laughing). Do not let the devil get on your money. When the devil got on Job’s money -- and he had thousands and thousands and thousands of cattle and houses and stuff -- and once the devil was set loose against Job’s money, the devil can devour your money. And do you know, when stuff goes to happening with your money, when there is a devourer set loose against it, you cannot hem it up. I do not care how much you earn. You just cannot hem it up. Stuff can go to happening, stuff goes to breaking down, all kind of things happen with your money. Have you ever had a situation where you’ve got a big chunk of money, and all of a sudden a few days later, you could not put your finger on where that money went? Money can get devoured so fast, you do not know where it went to. And if the devil is set loose against your money, see, when your money starts getting eaten up, when you start running short when bill collectors are calling you every other minute, when you’ve got more month and no money; that can start wearing on your nerves. And I don’t care. You know. I know the New Testament doesn’t talk about it; but when you run short of money in this modern day society when you run short of money, you start having some problems. Without money, stuff goes to jamming. If the devil is just set loose on your money, you’ve got some major problems.

Ah, and if the devil is set loose in the health of your body, I mean, if I was the devil, I would say, “Lord, you do not even have to give me the whole body; just give me the feet. Just give me the feet, Lord! I can make them moan and I can make them
miserable. Just give me just the feet! Oh, I will pop some bunions up there and some corns, and they would not be able to walk and they just would not be able to go anywhere. They would have to sit down every minute. Ooh, and just -- oh, goodness! All I’d need is just to work on somebody’s feet, and you can take somebody’s nerves.

And if the Lord would not give me the feet, I would say, “Lord, just give me the head! And I do not even need the whole head; just give me one tooth, Lord. That’s all I need is just one tooth, and I can just take one tooth and make it look like somebody just ran an ice pick down in that tooth and just grind it and twist it. If you’ve ever had to sure-enough toothache, oh, just one tooth can make it feel like somebody is taking a sledgehammer and bashing you upside the head.” All it takes is just one little body part. Oh, and do not go to working the stomach, oh, oh, goodness (laughing)! There are so many parts on the body that if the devil is set loose on, aah, it can just mess up your whole world.

The devil can defeat you if he gets in any one of those three areas, see, because you can deal with it for a little while and come through it. If something lasts an hour, you can handle that; even a day. But when stuff goes to dragging on weeks, I mean it has been a month and your back still has a crick in it; it has been three months and you still have to eat baby food; it has been six months and you still have arthritis where you cannot even turn the TV on; you see, as illnesses go on and on and on, it starts to fatigue the spirit. And the devil can work it. He worked on Job to fatigue Job in all of those three areas. He will feed you in an area where you are hungry. He will fatigue you.

But tonight, I am talking the good time devil. You see, most of us associate demonic attacks of Satan with bad stuff, when stuff all around us is going wrong. But what about the good times? Do you know the first and, actually, the most devastating attack against mankind came in the Garden of Eden, when man was in paradise? It was the good time devil. And, you see, in good times, our guards are not up. When you’ve got plenty of money in the bank, you know, you just cannot imagine the devil attacking you when your body is feeling good -- I mean, when you are feeling good. When you are feeling good, when your ride is full, when your stomach is full, when your relationship is together, you feel like the devil cannot attack you.

Now, the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made, and he said unto the woman, “Yea, have God said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden.” You see, the woman was in paradise, and it is just like I was in the midst of that fast; I was in paradise. I was in the most restful, easiest position that I had ever been in, waiting on something bad. Yet, the devil was attacking me in the midst of paradise, and I did not recognize it.

Even in the Christmas season, a time that we are supposed to be focused on Jesus, do you know, the Christmas season is supposed to be the most joyous of all seasons;
but it is the time when suicides are highest? Not only is it a time when suicides are the highest, the Christmas season is the peak season for liquor sales ... peak season for liquor sales. I heard Dale say last night as he was looking at a sign that was in neon, the word “noel”, and he said he did not know what the word “noel” meant; but he saw something spiritually. He saw the sign flash “no”, and then he saw the sign flash ”el”. Because “el” means “God”, he saw in the spirit what it was talking about as even in the Christmas season, where we moved into a time spiritually where the Christmas season is meaning is “no God”. It is a time of good times, and it is a time of feasting. It is a time of spending, it is a time of laughing. It is a time of drinking, and in the midst of the good times, the good time devil comes in.

When you study the Old Testament especially, you will find that when the children of Israel turned around and worshipped other gods was when God had given them the most stuff, and the good time devil stepped in. When God had given the people the most stuff was when they turn their faith away from Him. There is something that is placating, there is something that is relaxing when nothing is wrong. We expect a battle from the devil when stuff is just breaking loose everywhere. But, you know, when there is nothing wrong, we get comfortable. And not only do we get comfortable, because, you know, that is why usually you will not find people that are in real good positions where everything is smooth doing a whole lot of hallelujah-praising. As a general rule, most of the time when people are sure enough, I mean just sure-enough praising, usually there is a whole lot of problems somewhere. When stuff gets loose, we do not do a whole lot of praising. When rulers of war come, the churches fill up, because people expect the devil to appear in the midst of catastrophe; but the devil’s first appearance was in paradise, and he did his most damage and he brought man from paradise into sin and into death as a good time devil, not as the devil of catastrophe. And we have to understand that if God brings us into good times, we do not let the good time devil creep in, because the devil is the most subtle creature of all.

The story that Jesus tells over in Luke: “And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do? Because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years, take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said under him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then who shall those things be, which thou has provided?”

You see, this man was in the midst of good times. He was in the midst of where he had everything that he could desire; and in the midst of good times is more where we need God than we do in the midst of bad times.
My little brother said, “When stuff all around us is happening, we get on our program real good. When stuff is really pressured and when things are really rolling and going haywire and you’re dealing with a hundred different things and things will vex your spirit, do you know when you have a lot of stuff coming at you, you do not have a difficulty dropping down to your knees? I mean when stuff is really hitting you from left and right and every which way, you do not have a difficulty dropping down on your knees! That is why if you look at society, you will find the greatest what I recall will call all kinds of depraved sin at the extreme levels. You will find it among the extremely poor and the extremely rich, because oftentimes when you are in the midst of hunger in the wilderness, the devil has his greatest temptation; and when you are in the midst of the greatest good times, the good time devil will creep into your world, and he will fool you.”

I said to myself as I saw that, “Wow!” Then James told me and began to explain to me late that night. He said, “You know, it is like termites going into a house. Termites are something that you cannot see on the outside, but they work on the foundation. It is subtle, like the good time devil.”

When he said that, I said, “Oh, my goodness!” And he said, “Why did you say that?” I said, “Because last night, I dreamed about termites!”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: I was laying there, and I had a dream. As I was laying there, I dreamed I saw on the dresser right beside me termites running up and down the desk. You see, that is the way the good time devil works. When stuff in our life starts going good, we get satisfied and we get next proud and we get complacent, and the good time devil starts creeping in. He will start creeping in, and the things that we know we are to do towards God will start going slack. First thing that will start going is our prayer life. Oh, we pray like mad when stuff is going wrong; but when stuff is straightened out and we’ve got three to four house notes in the bank, prayer life starts getting a little slack, because, you see, the more things that you can see in the natural, the less we feel we need God.

You know, when you can’t hard to see how you are going to pay your next meal, you are depending on the Lord. But when you are loaded, you are not depending on the Lord in your own mind. You may thank the Lord, but you are not depending on the Lord.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: There is a big difference in that. That is why in the midst of paradise, we can be fooled so easily … in the midst of paradise. And when that
happened and that serpent came into Adam, it came in through his spouse and was fooled in the midst of paradise and through all of Creation.

God wants to take so many of us to good times, but He is scared we are going to forget Him. He wants to take you all to good times. He wants to give you all the stuff. He wants to really put you on beds of ease. But once we get on the beds of ease, people have short memories. Do you know, people like that in the flesh with somebody you helped? Do you know that? You can help somebody, and you can really be the reason as to why they are who they are. And do you know, it doesn’t take long … you know what I am talking about? It does not take long for them to completely forget you. There is something in human nature that the more you do for a person, the less they appreciate it! Sometimes you do a great big thing for a person, and they appreciate it less than somebody else who does a little litty thing for them. There is something about the human nature and human spirit that is just like that, and we are that way towards God. See, if God blesses us first of all one month with a great bounty, oh, we are all thankful for that: “Hey, Lord, have mercy!” But the second month, we are not quite as thankful. By the time we get to the sixth month, we’re talking about, “Yeah, I know God blessed me with that; But, shoot, He ought to bless me with a little more now; I am tired of the same old thing.” You see, it is what happened to the children of Israel when they were in the desert, in the wilderness. And when they were hungry and God rained down manna upon them, they were glad to get that manna, because they were starving. Ew, they were so thankful; but after they ate that manna for a certain period of time, they went to grumbling about that manna, they went talking about that manna, talking about they needed something else -- I mean, the Lord ought to hand them something else. All this manna coming down, they were not working for the manna. They did not have to hit a lick for the manna; the manna just fell out of the sky. They did not have to get up and go to work. All they had to do was pick it up, put it in the basket and eat it. The Lord protected them, the Lord guided them, their clothes did not wear out, they did not get sick, they had it made; and yet they grumbled, because they wanted something different. You see, they were in the midst of paradise. They had everything provided for them, but they got tired of it. They became unappreciative of it, and the good time devil stepped in.

See, the good time devil knows how to work human nature. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows where your weak spots are and, see, he is going to come at the weak spots. He is not coming at your strong spots. The devil is not going to attack me in certain areas where I am strong. He is going to come at me in the areas where I am weak. And, see, everybody in this room, though we have some common spots, everybody has a little bit different button, and he knows where to push that button. And you can get a person weakest by putting them either in a prolonged bad situation or a prolonged good situation, because they will get complacent with the manna that God has sent.
He wants to bless us, people. But He wants you protected from the good time devil.

I saw it so clearly, and we had to snap back on our tracking. As James and I even talked about it, he said, “You know, we know a whole lot of this stuff and it is hard for us to stay on the track.” It is hard for us to stay on the track. I know some of you will say, “Well, look, Man. You are the minister, and you shouldn’t be saying it’s hard.” Yeah, it’s hard for me to stay on it. It is hard for me to stay on it. It was hard for every other soul in the Bible to stay on it. Jesus was the only One that was able to stay on it, and even He got to the end of His rope! It was hard. Every one of the disciples, you know, now, these are the chosen. Do you know every one of the disciples, there was not one of the disciples who could hold up and pray long enough. Not one of the chosen disciples could hold up with Jesus to the end, and He said, “Could you not even carry with Me an hour?” The disciples fell flat after they had seen all of that; so the flesh by its nature ... and I do not know. Both of us, as a matter of fact, James and I are even named after the disciples. So we’ve got some of the qualities of the disciples in us. Oh, yes, we do! And you do, too, some of the good and some of the bad. And we get weak. And when you do not stay focused, when you do not stay on track, when you do not make up your mind and when you do not constantly keep getting yourself renewed, you will start slacking.

I even noticed on the Prayer Circle tonight: it will go up and down. Sometimes it would be charged, and other times nobody will be here, because it sometimes hard to stay consistent! It is difficult, and it is that way in my own life, especially when stuff is going good. When stuff is going good -- and, you know, it has been going good lately -- when stuff is going good, the good time devil will step in, because, number one, when stuff is going good, you have whole lot of other stuff to do. Opportunities present themselves. You have all kinds of distractions: you’ve got money to go places, anywhere you want to go. There are so many other things happen when stuff is going good. Sometimes when it is going bad, you cannot even remember that. You are stuck at home, and sometimes you cannot go anywhere but your prayer closets. But when stuff is going good in paradise, it is oftentimes more difficult to maintain your balance.

I know that God is working with me so that He can take me to higher places. He is trying to tell me, “Look, when I place you in the midst of paradise, you’ve got to be able to keep your mind on Me. When I place you on the top of the mountain, you’ve still got to be able to stick to your program. When I put you in a position that will exalt you, you’ve got to keep your mind on Me and not on you.” You see, that is hard to do in the flesh for anybody. I do not care who you are, and anybody that tells you they do not have a problem with it are either not telling you or they are lying, because that is hard to do!

There is the nature of the flesh, and that is why all of the disciples had problems with it. They had a difficulty staying the course, but the good time devil waits on it,
and God wants us to be able to handle that rascal. But in order to handle him, we’ve got to be able to recognize him.

James was telling me that that is why the devil is oftentimes so successful, because he works so subtly and folks do not even realize he is working. He said, “You are laying up there, thinking that no attack is coming against you, and you’ve completely fallen off your program. You did not even realize that the good time devil was working on you.” And I said, “I sure didn’t.”

I did not even realize it, and that is the brilliance of the devil. The devil is a smart man. That is why God said he was the smartest, the most subtle, the hardest to detect of all the creatures.

There is a movie that we went to see called “The Devil’s Advocate”. It’s a real good movie and really deals with how the devil really operates, and none of the folks could recognize that it was the devil working, because he worked so smooth. But one of the best ways that you can recognize that the devil is working in your life is whenever things in your world are starting to move away from the focus of God and starting to move away from God’s laws. Whenever they starts moving away from God’s laws, one of them three devils has gotten into you: the good time devil, deceive me devil or the fatigue me devil. One of them has gotten into your world, and you’ve got to be able to see it. You cannot even get rid of something unless you recognize it. If you do not know anything is wrong, how are you even going to fix it? You’ve got to first of all recognize it. That’s the subtleness of the devil. That is why that is the characteristic that God told you about. He was the most subtle, the hardest to detect.

See, one of the biggest blocks that will keep us from even recognizing he is working is pride. That is the first thing he’ll puff you up with: “Ah, shoot, no devil has ahold of me. Huh-huh.” You know who I am there, shoot! Nothing has ahold of me -- not me! Maybe the other man, but he is not working in my world.” That’s the first thing that will happen is that pride will step in, and you are saying, “Nothing is wrong with me, and there is nothing wrong with what I am doing.” He will come in with pride, and pride will blind you to the subtleness and to the workings of the devil, the good time devil.

I am not sure why God wanted me to bring this up as a Christmas message. But, you see, Christmas is the time that symbolizes birth in a whole lot of ways. The 12 days of Christmas -- you know, Christmas is not in the Bible. Christmas really roots from astrology. But the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, in the midst of the 12 days of Christmas is what is called the winter equinox. It means simply it is the winter solstice. What this means is, it is the point at which the length of day exactly equals the length of night, and that occurs two times a year. It occurs in the summertime in the summer solstice, and it occurs in the winter solstice. And it
varies a little bit, depending upon the year; that is why those 12 days are in there. But the significance of it from the ancient times is this: from that day of the winter solstice when day equals night, when light equals darkness, from that point forward you move into summer, and from that day forward light starts to get greater and darkness starts to lessen.

From that day forward there is a point that you should reach in your life where you should go past an equinox, and from that point forward, light should increase and darkness should decrease. Daylight should start to get longer, and your nighttimes should start to get shorter from that point on. You see, the point that you recognize the workings of God and the workings of the devil and start moving toward the workings of God, from that point the nighttimes in your life will start getting shorter. Whenever you start putting more emphasis on the workings of the devil and less on the workings of God, from that point your nighttimes will start getting longer and your daytimes will start getting shorter. You see, in the summer solstice, the nights start getting longer and the days start getting shorter. But, you see, God will oftentimes bring us through a time of night before he brings us to a time of day. That is why even in Genesis, He says: “And the evening and the morning were the first day”, because they are symbolically of the way our lives work. Sometimes God will bring us to a nighttime experience. He will bring us out of darkness into His marvelous Light, and this is the point right now. It is the season where from this season forward life increases and darkness decreases, and it needs to do so in our own lives.

We need to understand the workings and the subtleness of the devil, and we need to understand the grace and the goodness and the power of God. When we understand that, day will increase and night will decrease in our lives.

Bow your heads.

Dear Father, we thank you tonight for Your message to simply warn us of the subtleness ... of the subtleness, the subtleness of the destroyer and the devourer, for he comes to destroy our relationship with You and he comes to destroy everything in our lives that is good -- everything that is good! He comes to take our joy. He comes to take our families. He comes to take our marriages. He comes to take our money. He comes to take our health. He comes to take everything that is good within our lives and leaves us devoured.

Help us to recognize the subtleness of the serpent in the midst of the good times. When you bless us with things, dear Father, when You bless us with peace, when You bless us with the abundance, when You bless us with the recognition, when You bless us with the esteem, when You bless us with so much, Dear Father, do not let us turn away from You, but let us seek You even more. Let us become even the
more thankful, let us become even the more humble, to recognize that it is Your power and it is Your grace You give us all.

In this season, do not let us be victims of no-el. Do not let no-el reign in our house, but let the presence of the Holy Spirit enter. With each giblet, with each turkey wing, with each piece of dressing, let the Holy Spirit adorn it all. With each song, let the breath of the Holy Spirit grace us. Be with us, dear Father.

And when we slip from the path, send us a warning to let us know. Let us know that the good time devil is knocking on our door. Let us know that there are termites eating at the foundation; but, God, give us the sense to recognize it, and do not let pride stand in the way of our mitigating and stamping out the termites that tear at the foundation. In Thy Son Jesus’ name, amen.