

Proverbs for Teachers 6

A reprint series for LEA members
September 13, 2020

Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian.

Here's One for Satan

Prov. 23:11

You are in danger. So are your students. Sleeping Christians are those whose faith has been lulled into semiconsciousness by routine or experience or even laziness. Longtime Christians, though strong in the Holy Spirit, at times remain vulnerable if they allow faith to rest. Danger also lurks all too closely when worship trails off and when Bible study becomes expendable. Yes, Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian.

Satan attacks the wide-awake too. Jesus was fair game, though Satan made a strategic mistake there. Rebuffed by the Savior, Satan remains dangerous to the Savior's followers—people like you and your students.

Some circumstances leave you more subject to Satan's attention. Doubt is a familiar companion in the normal Christian life. You may find your students questioning the incredible stories of God's miracles or even Christ's conquest of sin itself. Doubts easily become personal too: "If Jesus love me (this I know), how can such bad things happen to me?"

Proverbs addresses Satan's schemes in a subtle yet powerful way. In the days when the biblical proverbs were freshly written earthly predators served as Satan's minions. Evil men took advantage of defenseless widows and orphans. These men would steal property from their victims by moving the stones that marked property lines. A widow's only defense had to come from someone stronger than both she and the cheaters. Thus, the proverb: "Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you" (Prov. 23:10–11).

This proverb is aimed at Satan and those who do his work. You and your students have boundary stones. God has made you His property, as it were, through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. Satan had better not mess with these boundary stones! Your Defender is strong!

Pray: I know I'm safe within Your boundaries, dear Father. Send Your Holy Spirit to keep me always faithful. Amen.

Their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you (Prov. 23:11).

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