

## MODULE 5

**Class Title:** Satan - part 3(3<sup>rd</sup> part of a 6 lesson series)

**Aim of lesson:** to see what tactics Satan uses to distract us from the straight path

**Category :** Scripture Stories

**Lesson format:** Power point Presentation, narration & discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(*Ta'awwudh*) *A'oodhubillahi minash Shaytaanir Rajeem*

(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassir li amri wahlul 'uqdatum mil lisani yafqahu qawli*

[Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verses 25-28]

Slides 1-3:

Today we will continue with the topic of Satan. We will cover all the 'tactics' used by Satan on mankind in order to distract us from the straight path.

Satan approaches us in the form of a sincere counsel, in the guise of a helper. How does he do that? Does he come and say, 'Hi I am Satan!'? No he doesn't, so how does he approach us? He approaches us disguised as a helper. Who is that person whom he comes disguised as? Someone close to me, a friend.

It can be a thought in our own heads, but the 'tactic' we are talking about right now is, when he actually approaches us with certain suggestions. So yes, he does come in the form of a human being, in the sense that he inspires people around us to come and say certain things to us. But who are these people? They may be friends or family... What is that one common thing in these people?

The common thing about these people who approach us is that they claim to care for us. They can be friends, relatives, anyone. What happens is that they come and apparently they are giving us good advice. They will tell us that they really care for us and that they are doing this for our own good. Basically there are two types of people who claim to care for you; the first type is where these people actually mean it and they do care for you. They are not aware of the fact that Satan is working on them; they are whispered to by Satan. They are not aware of it; they come to you and very honestly and sincerely tell you that they care for you.

The other type is those who know that they don't care for you and they fake it. When we talk of the ones that actually and sincerely care for you it can mean your friends, your relatives, your cousins, your colleagues, anyone. Among these people, there are a few who actually do not care for you! They just want to distract you from the straight path.

And what are the things they tell us?

Slides 4-5:

They will say, “You are still young, what’s the rush?”

”You can perform your religious observances when you grow old.”

They will also say, “You know what, we have to stick to moderation. We need to stick to moderation in religious aspects. Don’t do something that you can’t carry on doing. You are not strong enough right now so don’t get into it.” Or they may say, “After all you are doing the basic things. You are offering your *salah* that is enough.”

So has anyone approached you with this kind of attitude, this kind of approach? They tell you, “All this is not really important”. They will start making fun of you or start teasing you and say, “Oh, so you go to ‘Perceptions’? You are starting to be a *fundo!*”

Such people have their own perspective of religion. They kind of interpret the Qur-an in their own way and they want you to see it in that way too. Such people are very smart because Satan is putting these thoughts in their mind and these types of people are helping out Satan.

They will make you think that whatever you are doing is good enough and they will say, “Look at people around you, at least you are doing **this** at least you are doing **that**” and they make you think that whatever *tuta phuta* (incomplete, little bit) acts your are doing are good enough. Whatever *tuta phuta* good deeds you are doing are like ‘Wow! So you are actually doing this, you don’t need to do anymore!’ They will try to stop you from going ahead, and what they actually want is to cajole you back to the worldly things.

Slides 6-11:

We must all observe such people very carefully. Remember, the idea is not to start pinpointing and saying, “I think that one is a Satan” or “That one is not!” That’s not the point; we are not supposed to get paranoid with the whole concept of Satan working on people who claim to care for us; but we do need to observe and listen to people and if you feel that there is any person around you, any person who tells you anything contrary to what you have learnt through the Qur-an, then you need to be very, very careful.

I am not saying take a *danda* (rod) and start beating up that person... NO. When such things happen, you are supposed to ignore them. Such people will not listen to you. You should try a couple of times but if that person is not listening to you, you need to ignore him and not just that, you need to stop repeating what they say as well. It is very, very important for us to understand that. It is just like, when a child hears somebody abusing someone on the streets he comes back and says, “Mom he was saying this, this and this.” So try not to repeat the stuff that is not according to the things we have learnt from the Qur-an and *Sunnah*.

There are times when you really want to make changes in your lives and I hope there comes such a time in all of your lives! I want you all to have this experience in your lives when you actually want to make changes. Then of course Satan starts panicking and he wants to stop you and there will be people around you who will be unhappy with what you want to do. It can be anything, and you will have to say 'No' to a lot of people around you for certain things; they could be your friends or relatives whom you have to say 'no' to. We know that there are times when if you want to please Allah (swt), you do have to say 'No' to people.

Such people (who are either inspired by Satan or they are actually actively working for him), will then come and tell you, "Oh don't you know that Allah (swt) says in the Qur-an that you must not hurt people's feelings?" How can you say no to her? So that is actually taking Allah's (swt) name and His command out of the context.

Or for example, I hope none of us ever has to experience this, but there are times when parents stop you from doing good deeds. There are certain parents who don't want their children to be very religious; and then people will say, "How can you displease your parents? This is something that is absolutely not allowed in Islam, don't you know that?" Yes, the Qur-an does talk about being obedient to your parents, it does talk about being nice to people and not hurting their feelings, but there is a big exception in it and that exception is, that it should not be done at the cost of displeasing Allah (swt).

So this is the way they actually quote out of context from the Qur-an and convince you, that this is what is written in the Qur-an. "Have you not read the Qur-an? Oh maybe that is why you are doing it!" This is how people misguide you if you don't have the correct knowledge or if you are doubtful about what you are doing.

Slides 12-14:

Another thing that *Shaytaan* does is that he leads people astray from the true path by employing the name of Allah (swt). He actually does that.

E.g. they will say, "Allah (swt) is *Ghafoor ur Raheem* (All Forgiving), He loves you seventy times more than your mother; He will forgive you." They will say, "He won't throw you in the Hell fire because of the small little sins that you are committing."

What such people do, or how Satan inspires you into this is that he makes you see that sin that you are committing (which actually a big sin) as very small and he will make you see the quality of Allah (swt) to forgive as very, very big. So it is a misconception. and this is how he misguides us.

The point is that yes, Allah (swt) is *Ghafoor ur Raheem*. He will forgive if we ask for forgiveness, does not matter how many times we ask for forgiveness He will forgive us! We all know that, right? We are not denying it but if you commit the same sin again and again with the

intention that you will ask for His forgiveness later on ... “Oh He will forgive me! I will ask for His forgiveness”. Then that is problematic because you know what happens? Eventually your heart becomes hardened and you lose that fear that you are supposed to have in Allah (swt). We don’t have that fear because we take Allah (swt) for granted.

Slides 15-16:

In the Qur-an Allah (swt) talks about such people who take Allah (swt) for granted and these people constantly repeat, “We will soon be forgiven.” Have you heard people saying that? Who are the people who say that?

Yes, us Muslims; because we take Allah’s (swt) quality of forgiveness for granted and we have the misconception that on the Day of Judgement anyone who has ever recited the *kalimah* will not be thrown in the Hell fire or will be taken out of it and based on that, they tell you, “After all you are Muslim, *kalimah parha hay* (you’ve read the *kalimah*) so you are fine, you are safe and you can afford to goof up here and there. It’s not a big deal!” This is how Satan works. This kind of talk is absolute rubbish. How can you keep committing sin after sin and then say to yourself that you’ve read the *kalimah*? Wouldn’t it be very, very unfair?

Do you know what one of the most subtle vices in the world is? It is something you really don’t recognise as a vice; you really don’t even know that it is a sin. Do you know what that is?

Slides 17-

One’s desire to be recognized by others; where you want people to appreciate you. We don’t even realise that we have this inside us. You are offering your *salah* and you are doing this for Allah (swt) but in your heart you want somebody to say how beautiful your *sajdah* was. How calm and peaceful your *salah* was. That is just a small example that I have given you. We do any kind of work and we want appreciation, and it is usually not from Allah (swt). Or perhaps from Allah (swt) as well as people around us and this takes over in such a manner that we don’t even realise that we have this problem. Again, who is behind this? Satan; he will actually make you observe religious duties, and he will help you to perform religious duties. He will remind you, “Hey it is time for ‘*Asr*.”, “Hey it is time to go to Perceptions”, “Hey it is time to wake up for *sehri*”. He will encourage you to do good deeds but not for Allah (swt)! If you are doing something for Allah (swt) 99.99 percent, that 0.01 percent you are doing for people around you.

Do you know what Allah (swt) does for such an act? He throws it back in our faces. He does not want such *salah*; He does not want any of our worship where our intentions are not purely for Him.

I will read a part of the translation of a *surah*: “So woe to those who perform prayers; those who are forgetful of their prayers and those who show off.” [Surah Al-Maa’oon, 107: 4-6]

And how do you forget your prayers? Who are the people who are forgetful of their prayers? Why is Allah (swt) extremely displeased with such people? They are performing their prayers, right? They are offering their prayers but Satan is the one who is actually telling them, reminding them, “Hey it’s time for *maghrib*, time for ‘*isha*, go and offer your prayers.” Allah (swt) however, is not happy because He is throwing it back on our faces; why? Because we are forgetful, but what is it that we are forgetting?

One is that we are not doing it purely for Allah (swt). It is partly because you want to please your mom and partly because you want your colleagues to see that you are offering your *salah*.

Another meaning is that you are not concentrating on the *rak’ahs*. You don’t even know; your mind is elsewhere and you are just doing your *salah* in a robotic manner. You are not emotionally linked up with Allah (swt) and it is a very mechanical thing that you are doing, so Allah (swt) does not want such prayers and that is the reason why we should take out some time to learn the meaning of all the *surahs* that we recite in our *salah*. It should not take you more than a week to learn these meanings. Even if you have some idea of what you are saying in your *salah* it will help you concentrate; concentrate and focus on Allah (swt) rather than, “What should I do later?” or “I wonder what is coming on TV”. All kinds of distractions! It is Satan who actually distracts you in your prayer as well.

Slide 18:

Then Satan creates confusion in our priorities as well; how does he do that?

“I’ll offer my prayers when there’s a break/ I’ll pray later.” There are times when he makes you see or focus on a deed which although it is good but it is smaller in reward than a deed he’s making you neglect. Also, at times he makes you focus on something that is optional, at the cost of ignoring something that is *fard*. For example, you have guests over and taking care of guests is a very, very good thing but if you are doing it at the cost of missing your *salah* that is wrong. Can you give me another example where there are two deeds and you focus on a deed which is smaller in reward as compared to something that will you fetch you a bigger reward?

Of course, there’s also not fasting in *Ramadan* because you have exams.

What would you do if your mom or dad tells you, “*Beta* it is very hot” or “You have exams so you do not have to fast.” (It is *Ramadan* and you all are old enough for it to be a *fard* on you).

Say *Laa haula wa laa quwwata na’oozu billah*...I see a Satan right on top!

Is that what you are supposed to do?

They should reprimand you if you do; that is no way of talking to your parents! So how will you handle the situation?

Yes, just the way *Shaytaan* cajoles you slowly and gradually back into the attraction of this world, you need to use the same tactic on him through people who are stopping you from doing what you are supposed to do. So don't go and say to your parents, "You can't stop me!"

Allah (swt) has told us that we don't have to listen to them if they ask us to do something against the commands of Allah (swt); that is all He has said. He has not given us permission to be disrespectful to them or offend them. You have to be a little discreet about the whole thing. Rather than showing your discontent, say "Alright mom you know what, I really feel like fasting, do let me just try one or two fasts and if I feel o.k. then may I?" "Let us just try for one or two and go slowly and gradually rather than telling them, "Didn't you go through the Qur'an ...don't you know it is *fard* (obligatory) on me?" No!

It is our responsibility to go through the Qur'an from cover to cover and to understand what is in there. For that we need to study the *tafseer*. This book that Allah (swt) has given us is a thick book; there is a reason behind it! We need to go through this book. There are a lot of things that we don't know ...there are a lot of feelings in it, there are a lot of things in it that take you on a spiritual high...there is so much in this book that I can't just sit here and tell you in forty minutes.

So it is a responsibility on our shoulders but unfortunately what happens is that there are too many challenges in our life. Academic challenges and a lot of other commitments and the one small thing that gets overlooked is taking out the time to read the Qur-an, to read The Book! So you must take out the time to read The Book, this is very, very essential. You are all over fifteen years old so you need to take out the time to read the Qur-an.

Slides 19-20:

Satan's time management skills are very, very good. He is a very smart guy; he will never ever attack us when we are on a spiritual high. He knows it will not work so he will not attack us all the time. He won't! He does not waste his energy where he knows it is not going to work. So when does he attack us and when does he not attack us?

What is that ideal time when he says, "No, this is not a good time?", "This is useless." and what does he do then? Does he give up on you?

No? Then what other tactic? Satan actually knows that our level of *imaan* goes up and down.

He will attack you when you are having doubts. He knows the level of *imaan* in all of us, be it adults, teenagers or kids, the level of *imaan* fluctuates. It is something that goes up and down, up and down ...what is our *imaan* level in *Ramadan*?

Yes, you lose your temper ...you lose your patience.....that is another way of focusing on something...he makes you focus on just one thing, overlooking the rest of the things.

We are going to stop on this; in Ramadan Satan is not there ‘for sure’ but our actions still leave a lot to be desired. We will talk about it next week *Insha Allah*.

(*Du’a* for the end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul’izzati ‘amma yasifun wa salamun ‘alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil ‘aalameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalamu’alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh*