

MODULE 5

Class Title: Satan part 5 (5th part of a 6 lesson series)

Aim Of Lesson: To understand the effect of Satan's tactics on human beings

Category: Scripture stories

Lesson format: Power point Presentation, narration & discussion

(**Note to teacher:** some slides in the power point presentation are hidden, as they were not used for this session. They have not been deleted as you may want to use them for your class.)

((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]

Today, *InshaAllah* we will continue with our talk on Satan's tactics. Do you remember what we did last week?

Slides 1-2:

One of the attacks that Satan uses on us is that he makes us fixate on thousands of details; because he knows that just having pure intentions are really not enough, action is required too. Is it enough to have good intentions? We need to select the most proper and correct way of doing a particular mode of worship as well. So Satan harms us by stopping us from doing certain good deeds by making us involved in things which are really frivolous, and really not necessary. So what does he do?

Slides 3-6:

There is a very good example of Musa (as) when he was told by Allah (swt) to tell his people that they need to go and slaughter a cow. Have you heard that story? He was supposed to go and tell his people to slaughter a cow. What did the people do? They kept asking for details, they wanted to know the colour of the cow, the size of the cow, and you know, all the details that they really didn't require. Thus Satan nearly succeeded in preventing them from performing this ritual by making a simple task look very, very difficult for them, because they got involved in unnecessary details of the task. That is what Satan does to us too.

A lot of us come under his attack and we don't even realize that Satan is working on us. We just keep suffocating ourselves with minor details. For example, men saying *salah* with or without a cap, have you heard people debating about that? Or the minutest change in the direction of the *Qiblah*, or where do we place our hands in *salah*? Satan makes us think that these things are so essential, so important that if we do not do certain things, they nullify our worship.

Slide 7:

Then he sometimes takes us to the other extreme; can anyone tell me what the other extreme is?

Becoming careless, we feel that as long as our intentions are pure, it really doesn't matter how we perform the worship. So you'll see people offering their *salah* just the way they want to, they won't follow the *Sunnah*, they won't even cover themselves properly while offering the *salah* and they'll say, "Oh! It's just the intentions, you don't need to get into the nitty-gritties." That's another extreme and that is again an attack from Satan. So you see, he attacks you from both sides, he doesn't just attack you from one side.

Slides 8-10:

Satan also encourages extravagance. There is a verse in the Qur-an where Allah (swt) says,

'People who overspend are brothers of Satan' (Al-Isra 17:27).

None of us want to be labeled as brothers of Satan, so what can we do in order to make sure that we do not overspend?

The first most important thing is that we need to reduce the number of shopping sprees. We must only go when we have a list of things to buy rather than just running to the mall for every small thing, because what happens when you go to the mall or to the bazaar is that you go there for one thing and you end up buying ten. Why is that?

Because we get carried away.

I personally feel that window shopping is a complete waste of time, and that too makes you sometimes get carried away and buy stuff which you regret buying as soon as you come back. 'Oh I really didn't need it, I thought it was really cute' and we come home and say, 'Why did I buy it?' So you get carried away.

Tagging along with someone to the bazaar is also not a good idea because then there is not just one shopping list, there are two shopping lists, yours and hers, it's going to take you longer in the bazaar and you'll be wasting a lot of time, because when she is looking for things that she wants, you'll be wasting your time. Bazaars and malls are definitely not places to relax and chill out in.

There is another very powerful trick, a very powerful means that will always stop you from overspending; always ask yourself before buying anything, 'Can I do without it?' Just remember that before buying anything. Even when you feel, 'Oh it's so cute' the question that you need to ask yourself is, 'Can I do without it?' You will still buy things, but it's

definitely going to reduce what you buy. You will need to decide for yourself and bring everything down to bare minimum.

Slides 11-13:

One of the teaching of Satan is 'Demagogy' what is demagogy?

Demagogy is to justify yourself, by using emotions rather than reasons in order to win arguments. This is actually a satanic attack. The main purpose of all the efforts in demagogy is to oppose the truth.

They come up with brilliant, very smart things to say in order to oppose the truth. That's the whole idea of demagogy and they'll make all kinds of efforts to justify themselves and to find an excuse to ease their guilt. Such people want to ease off their guilt and for that they come up with very smart reasons for what they are doing and what they are not doing.

However, this is not a method that we develop individually. We might feel that we came up with it, but there are many area in it that Satan guides us in as well.

Slides 14-15:

For example the Qur-an warns the believers against certain things; we're not supposed to drink wine, we're not supposed to gamble and we're not supposed to indulge in fortune-telling. Satan will make us, by tempting or whispering to us, to cross the boundaries of Allah's (swt) commands by saying..... There is a verse in the Qur-an where Allah (swt) says that,

'Satan wants to stir up enmity and hatred between you by means of wine and gambling and to debar you from the remembrance of Allah (swt) and from prayer; will you not then give them up?' [Surah Al-Ma-idah,5: 91]

It's pretty much in black and white don't you think? However, Satan works on the thinking process of people who are in the habit of getting involved in demagogy by making them think, 'Oh you know what, I'll be very, very careful.' or 'I have good control over myself.' or 'Such rules are for people who really can't control themselves.'

Slide 16:

We need to understand that Satan works on smart people, and such people will come up with very smart ideas. So such people go and drink, claiming that they know when to stop. I don't know if you've come across such people who drink and say, 'I know when to stop, I have good control over myself.' or they go to parties and they mingle freely with guys and say, 'I know how to handle them; they can't take advantage of me.' or they watch forbidden

channels on TV and say, 'These things do not lead me towards shamelessness.' Demagogy is actually smart excuses.

They basically imply that the reasons for which certain things are forbidden are pretty much in their control; "I know why Allah (swt) is stopping me, and those things are very much in my control, so I don't need to follow what Allah (swt) is saying because I know the reason why He's telling me not to do it and I'll take care of that.' They believe that hence certain rules of the Qur-an don't apply to smart people like them who can actually 'take care of themselves'; this is demagogy. *Alhamdulillah*, all of us are very smart and Satan will definitely attack us involve us in demagogy. That's why we have to be very, very careful. When a command of Allah (swt) is right in front of us in black and white, what do we have to do? We simply have to follow it!

Slides 17-18:

Satan makes us lose our sensitivity to shamelessness.

This is a very important topic that we seriously need to talk about. In several places in the Qur-an while talking about *haya*, Allah (swt) says about the believers that 'believers are the ones who guard their private parts.' In the Qur-an whenever Allah (swt) talks about *haya*, these are the exact words that He uses.

Allah (swt) could easily have been a little subtle in His words. He could have said 'In regards to their shame', or 'to guard their shame.' He could have said that, but He didn't! He went straight to the heart of the subject and said that they guard their private parts. Now that's a very graphic phrase. It's a very graphic way of communicating a certain point. But we need to understand why Allah (swt) used this phrase or uses this phrase repeatedly in the Qur-an.

He does so because this subject has to be taken head on, you and I have to understand the seriousness of the subject and when you want the other person to understand the seriousness of a particular subject you are very, very straight forward and to the point, you don't mince your words.

Slide 19:

So Allah (swt) is not mincing words at all, and He wants us to understand how easily Satan can penetrate and destroy our *emaan* if he works on our shame. In our society shamelessness is as common as the air we breathe. It's not just in the west now; it's pretty common here in our culture too.

Perhaps I am repeating myself, but Satan is really not concerned about the person who is just dancing away at the club, he is not concerned about the guy who is drinking away at the bar, or somebody who's taking shots on a regular basis because he is going to end up doing something that Satan already wants, those people are already on-track.

Slide 20:

Satan is actually worried about the loose ends, the sales that he has not made as yet, he is worried about you and me and he needs to work on us. So the more we try to purify ourselves, the more we will find that opportunities to engage in shamelessness are just throwing themselves at us, they're just throwing themselves at us. How many of you go to co-ed schools?

Does it ever happen that out of nowhere a good looking guy walks up to you and says, "Hi."; or just come and make small talk with you if it's not a 'hi'? Or even if you're not in a co-ed school, do you ever experience out of nowhere this cute looking guy will just walk up to you and make small talk, and you'll say, 'What the hell is he doing here?'

Slide 21:

See the thing is that *shaytaan*, he goes to these certain people, he attacks you through people too, we talked about it; and he will say, 'By the way I have this one key prospect over there, why don't you go and say hello to her' or, 'Why don't you know just go and give her a smile'. So *shaytaan* will try and mess with us by means of other things and other people as well and this is where we have to be extra, extra careful, right.

Slide 22:

look at the way we have become so thoughtless in the way we dress; and I'm not talking about the western clothes that have become very common on the streets, I'm talking about our own Pakistani clothes. For example we have started showing our legs, our shins; we're absolutely fine about it.

Slide 23:

The high Capris that we're wearing with long shirts, and sorry to say sometimes it seems as if a person is wearing absolutely nothing underneath but thanks to the winds in Karachi, we're like 'Thank God she actually is wearing something underneath.' Because you just can't see the trousers and honestly speaking we don't have that, 'Oh my God!' attitude towards these people, and why do you think that is so?

Slides 24-25:

Because after a while it doesn't even bother us anymore and we feel that it's a good thing that now it's not bothering us. Honestly speaking, now even the *sabziwala* doesn't turn around and stare at you if he sees you in Capris.

We all have become desensitized to shamelessness and this is exactly what Satan wants; we'll probably feel that it's a good thing that the *sabziwala* is not turning around and looking at us,

we feel probably it's a good idea if people are not going like, 'Oh my God look at her!' We feel it's a good idea if *nanis and dadis* are fine about Capris now, whereas ten years back they would have just freaked out.

Why are they fine, why is the *sabziwala* not showing any kind of reaction? Mainly because ALL of us are desensitized. So first we have this cultural shock and then we get over it and then such things become part of the norm, and that's exactly what Satan wants.

Then we start feeling that *haya* is something that should be in the eyes of the person who is looking at us. If you blame the person looking at you rather than your own self however, then there is seriously something wrong with your *eemaan* and this is exactly what Satan wants. He wants you to blame the people looking at you.

Slide 26:

And then we watch movies, and what do we tell our parents? 'Oh mom, it's only PG13!' or 'It's got just one bad scene!' or 'It's got a couple of bad scenes, but I'm going forward them!' I'm saying all this explicitly, because this is reality, this is why we're watching these things, let's be honest about it. And this is very serious stuff, because once you're desensitized to what you're watching on the screen, what's the next logical step?

Slide 27:

What's the next logical step, when we step out of our houses we don't look down; we stare! And then we try and copy what we see on the screen, we become totally desensitized and feel that this is absolutely fine and very normal. This is a very normal process towards shamelessness. Now the question is, how do we counter this culture of shamelessness?

Slide 28:

How can we counter this attack of Satan? We have to fight it, but do you have anything in mind, what is that one thing that can actually stop us from becoming desensitized to shamelessness?

You're going to hate me for saying this, but the fact is that we have to take the most difficult steps in our 'Teen life', and that step is to cut TV off. Yes, there isn't any easier way about it and I know it's a very difficult step not just for you, but for all of us! It is a very difficult step. But to begin with, at least let's stop watching all those channels and all those programmes that show indecent movies and programmes.

Let's think about it ourselves, what should be more important for us, I've told you what it's going to do to us, either you have can get into some smart demagoguery tactic and convince

yourself that 'You know, it's not going to affect me.', Because this is exactly what we do, we get this ostrich attitude, we think that it's not going to affect us.

Most of the stories, even 'Cinderella' is not suitable for kids! There are certain channels on TV that you can watch, like National Geographics. I know all of them have music in them, one-step at a time, at least what we can do, our first step could be to stop watching any programme that has a girl-boy relationship.

We feel that this is the end of the world, but it's not; there are a lot of very good books. You have to choose correctly, but the things is with books you can be very, very careful, there is an abundance of books that are very clean and suitable for reading.

Slide 29:

And one very common excuse that we hear when we talk about cutting off TV is, 'We cannot cut ourselves out from the world, where are we going to watch the news? That's so very important.' Yes, that is very important, but now *Alhamdulillah* that excuse is dead, because now you have all those 'dot coms' and the information that you get on the internet is much more reliable than what you get on TV.

So we need to get rid of all these excuses, we have to stop thinking that this is the end of the world, it's not. And unless we try it out, we'll never know. This is Satan scaring us, saying, 'What else, there is nothing else left in the world if you're going to stop watching such programmes.' But that's just not true.

Slides 30-31:

And then we have these portable video iPods, forget about the channels, in some cases kids put stuff in and hide it in folders and parents don't even know that they exist.

These kids are very smart, and they put labels on them like, 'Directory Root System', telling them it's some kind of information file, and it's IN THERE. So who do you think gave them this idea, who do you think is working on them? It is Satan. Let's just accept that it's Satan working on us when we do things like that! And please let's not fool ourselves by saying that, 'Ooh it really doesn't affect me at all.' That's the biggest lie you can tell yourself, that 'It does not have any negative effect on me.' So everybody please let's wake up!

Slide 32:

This is the fifth class on Satan and I think all of us who've been here should be able to establish and accept the fact that Satan is behind all these things, he's working on you and what does he want? He wants you to end up in the Hell fire! Let's be very honest about it. So we do have these temptations, we do and we have to make sure that we fight them.

Slides 33-34:

And then in the end I would like to talk to you about a very, very powerful weapon that Satan uses on all of us and I'm sure he has the highest success rate in his books for this particular attack and that is when he involves us in useless activities. It's so subtle that you don't even know that he's working on you.

In the religious sense it actually refers to something that has no benefit in your *deen* and no benefit in your *duniya* and we call it '*laghw*'. That's the terminology used for useless activities; no advantage in *deen* and *duniya*.

Slides 35-36:

For example when we go to work there is a purpose behind it. If you're going to college there's a good reason behind it; if you play sports, at least there are certain health benefits; but practically speaking most of the times when Satan whispers to us to get engaged in certain useless activities or speeches we don't even realize that he's working on us.

Small unnecessary talks, we do it all the time. Cracking jokes; cracking jokes, is fine, but if we're doing it for half an hour, it's a waste of time; it's Satan working on you.

Slides 37-38:

What we don't understand is that we have a very serious misconception. Allah (swt) made it very, very clear for us that a believer does not get involved in useless activities, not only does a believer not get into sinful activities, we are also not supposed to get involved in '*laghw*'. And now *SubhanAllah* Satan has worked very hard in introducing us to certain activities to engage us in '*laghw*'. For example, the online role playing games that we have, you can sit behind the screen for hours in your virtual life and have absolutely no idea what's going on in the real world.

Slides 39-40:

This is happening and it's very, very real. And now we have other types of opportunities like 'facebook' or 'MySpace', and my God, you can't even stay on these sites to do some constructive work because the moment you sign in what happens is, all your friends and relatives will invite you to become their friends and then the next thing you'll find yourself doing, if you make the mistake of being nice to them and accepting their invitations, the next thing you'll find yourself doing is watching their fishing trip pictures and your good-looking friend is all decked up for a '*shaadi*' and it's not just her friends who are watching this picture but all those non-*mehram* guys on her friends' list are watching it too....and then it's

not just them, but their friends are also watching it! And I've heard that they've come up with this strange way of cracking your accounts.

So your beauty and your private life are totally, totally exposed to the whole world! This is Satan working on us and we need to understand that.

Slides 41-43:

And teenagers are on these with these screen names, they are leading this 'double life' and they're meeting boys and girls all the time on 'facebook'. All types of crazy stuff is going on and I don't have to tell you all that goes on there! And where is it happening?

In our living rooms and in our bedrooms, because the computers are sitting there. So this profuse use of the 'internet', the addiction to 'YouTube', what's the top video today, what came out? And then there's this addition to TV series.

'Oh my god what's going to happen in the next episode?' And then you discuss it with your friends and it's so ridiculous, the culture is so exaggerated that it's not even funny in these plays.

Slides 44-46:

They say it's real life but it's not, and then these shows and these means of entertainment form our lives, our lives are spent around them. And all these shows that come on Star World, '90210, *Gossip girls*, *American Idol*, I've heard about the extremely addictive '*Desperate Housewives*'.

Sometimes it's hard to catch up with their series, so what do we do? We go on the weekend and buy the DVD of the whole season and then throughout the weekend, day and night, we're watching it!

And I'll be very honest with you; I was personally addicted to '*Friends*' and you can't do without it. You have to watch the whole series, all the episodes and then what happens, we become like zombies and end up buying their paraphernalia and their video games. It happens all the time and it just keeps on going on and on and on.

Slides 47-48:

Where does this entire web of a trap we have put ourselves into, begin? What is the root of all this? Careless exposure to the media, that's the root of it. Let's just face it; in our times most of the evil that we're exposed to is not that we're going out to the clubs, it's because we don't need to, and we can watch the clubs sitting at home. And everything is virtually available on 'the net' in our homes.

Slide 49:

All of us have exams, let me just ask you a question; you have an exam coming up, a very crucial exam for you. You would have to be absolutely crazy to sit and watch something for a long period of time, a night before your exams. Why? Because you know you have a deadline. The night before your very crucial exam is very, very important. You have to be focused, you have to have enough sleep, and you have to make sure you do the proper revision at the proper time.

Slides 50-51:

Similarly, Allah (swt) has given us a deadline, HE has given us a deadline for certain things, but the strangest thing is that He has not told you your deadline and HE has not told me my deadline. That's one strange thing, and what is that deadline?

Our death. That, He has kept a secret from us! Now we need to be in a constant mode of emergency because we don't know our deadline and we have to acquire more and more good and have to keep ourselves more and more away from evil, so there has to be this sense of urgency in us which is really not there and if you don't have that sense of urgency then you have all the time in the world to do what you want to do, go and watch your programmes, spend time and waste time with friends as much as you want to.

I'm not saying that we have to shut down our lives and become totally depressed thinking about death and the Hell fire all the time, that's not the idea; a *mu-min*, a Muslim has balance, he's got fear and he's got hope, but the problem is that we're way too relaxed, we are on the extreme of the relaxed side so we need to wake up, it's time to think of ourselves and that time is here, now.

Slides 52-53:

Let me tell you a fictitious tale about Satan (*Iblees*) in the end. Satan called a worldwide convention of all the demons and told them,

"The problem is that we cannot keep the Muslims away from the mosques and we can't keep them away from the Qur-an, so let them go to the mosque if they want to, let them go to 'Perceptions' if they want to, but this is what I want you to do; steal their time so that they don't have the time to develop a relationship with Allah (swt) and His Messenger Muhammad (pbuh). Distract them from connecting with Allah (swt)."

Slides 54-55:

The demons shouted, "How shall we do this?" He said, "Keep them busy in the non-

essentials of life.” Non-essentials of life are what? Useless activities. “So tell them to spend, spend, spend and borrow, borrow, borrow.”

Slides 56-57:

Persuade the wives and the husbands to work for long hours and make sure that they don't get time to spend with their children. And what will happen eventually, their families will fragment. And then over stimulate their minds so that they can't hear that small voice.

Entice them to play their radio and their cassette player when they go out on drives, just make sure that their CDs and DVDs are all constantly at home and just make sure all the restaurants are playing music constantly and this is going to jam their minds and this will prevent them from connecting with Allah (swt)!

Slides 58-60:

And just make sure their coffee tables are full of magazines and newspapers, pound their minds with 24hours news, invade their driving moments with billboards and flood their mailbox with junk mail and of course don't forget to keep the skinny and beautiful women; models, on the magazines and TV so that their husbands would believe that outward beauty is everything.

It is the most important thing, so that they will become so dissatisfied with their wives, and just make sure that their wives don't take care of their husbands and don't forget the headaches, the wives must have the headaches because if they don't give their husbands the amount of love that they require, then they'll look elsewhere.

Slides 61-63:

And just make sure you give loads of storybooks to distract them from teaching their children the true essence, the true meaning of *salah*. Keep them so busy that they just don't get time to go out to appreciate nature and see Allah's (swt) creations. So send them to the malls, to the sporting events, to the movies, everywhere that they want to, just keep them very busy.

And when they go for any religious guidance, just get them involved in gossip and small talk and then crowd their lives with so many good causes that they have no time to seek power from Allah (swt), so that they forget the actual reasons for these good causes and they might think, 'Hey I'm working so hard for it so definitely what I'm doing is the right stuff.' whereas they will have no connection with Allah (swt). And it will work....”

Slides 64-65:

It was quiet a plan, so the demons went eagerly to work on the Muslims, having no time to tell others about the word of Allah (swt).

Slides 66-67:

I guess the question is, has Satan, the devil been successful in his schemes or not? This is a question that we need to ask ourselves. You be the judge, you guys decide, this is how he is working on us. ALL of us spend ALL our lives choosing between the voice of our inner common sense whispering the truth and Satan's whispers.

We keep deciding this or this, this or this and based on the decisions we take, so many times in a day, throughout our lives, Allah (swt) is going to decide our *aakhirah*. It's based on the choices that we make today, and it's not once a day, it's so many times in a day and so many times in our lives and based on all the choices that we make for ourselves, it's simple pure mathematics.

He's going to say "Alright this is what you decided to do in this world so because of this you're going here or there." Very simple.... in black and white, but Satan makes this look so difficult though it's like pretty much in black and white.

It may seem as if we are just not taking the responsibility of any of our misdeeds and conveniently blaming Satan for practically EVERY THING that we do wrong in our lives; we need to be clear about this; Satan just puts the wrong thoughts in our minds and he does it in such a discreet manner that we feel that we came up with it. He eventually corrupts our soul so much, that at times we do stuff that he wants us to without his active insinuations. This is when we join his group and corrupt other people too on his behalf.

Slide 69:

However, there is one more very important reality that we need to be aware of: Satan is a being completely under the control of Allah like all other creatures, such as the *jinn*s, the angels and human beings. Contrary to the commonly held view, Satan is not a separate being and independent of Allah.

Alhamdulillah today was the fifth part and one more class is left. We've talked about all these satanic attacks on us, how powerful, how active he is. Next week *InshaAllah* in the last class, we'll talk about all those things that Allah (swt) has provided us as weapons. We're loaded with it. He has given us a lot of things, with which we can make sure that Satan flees.

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul 'Izzati 'amma yasifun wasalamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'aalameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh*