

Mark 1:12-13

**- The battleground for Spiritual Warfare is as broad as creation and as narrow as the cross!**

- Satan's infectious influence in Eden shows the breadth of his intentions.
- Rule of Attack: If it belongs to God, the Devil wants it!
- Satan wanders on earth because he can not have heaven...  
...so he settles for us instead. (Job 1:6)
- Our homes, workplaces, and church are the battleground for the Devil's attacks!

**- The battleground between the shadows and light has been well traveled by its Victor!**

- We tend to drift between:
  - Ghost Stories: Treating the Devil like the boogeyman living in the shadows;
  - Cohabitation: An ignorant ambivalence to the reality of his influence; and,
  - Hollywood: We embrace the darkness and revel in the illusion of our control over it.
- A world that readily attributes tragedy to evil desperately needs a relationship with the Savior who holds victory over it!
  - Roughly 45.7% of our neighbors consider themselves a 'Spiritual Person'
  - About 16% of our neighbors say 'My Faith is Really Important to Me'
  - And that's only from a three mile radius around our campus!
- The venue for the Devil's attacks changes based upon where he can have influence and impact...but the ultimate outcome ALWAYS remains the same!

*"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:16-17)

**- While the devil wanders, we walk the line with Christ!**

- The ministry of this congregation is dedicated to proclaiming the power of Christ reclaim our battlegrounds!
  - We walk with broken people through really hard stuff, and don't stop on the other side.
  - We equip, encourage, and empower families to grow in faith together.
  - We employ our God-given gifts to love our neighbor as we do life together.
- God comes through Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for our daily battles!  
(...just as the angels minister to Jesus after His temptation in the wilderness in Mk 1:13)
- Walk tall! Pray hard! And remind the Devil:

"They cannot the win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!"  
- Martin Luther ('A Mighty Fortress')

SHADOWS  
LIGHT



Lent 2018