Date: 3/12/16

Title: Let Go of Sin

Theme: Satan takes us captive when we hold onto sin.

Object: YouTube video: How to Catch a Monkey; two jars containing candy with a small opening.

Text: 1 Peter 5:8: Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Do you know that there is a war going on in the spiritual world? (We can’t see the angels and the demons, but there is a war going on there.)

Jesus is you Friend and He wants to save you.

The devil is you enemy and he wants to destroy you.

And this verse from the Bible tells us to watch out for our great enemy, the devil.

He sneaks around like a lion looking for someone to eat.

Now the devil doesn’t really eat people, but what Peter is saying here is that the devil tries to destroy us.

The devil tries to get us to turn our back on Jesus so that we end up with the devil in the Lake of Fire.

And if we end up in the Lake of Fire, we get burned up, and that’s not good, right?

So how does Satan try to get us to turn away from Jesus and follow him instead?

He uses sin.

Sin is disobeying the commandments of God, and Satan tries to make it look like we’ll have more fun if we disobey God.

So he tries to get people to sin and hold onto their sin and not let go.

He’s been very successful with many people.

There are many people who are addicted to drugs, or alcohol, or cigarettes,

There are many people who lie and steal and shoot other people for money or drugs.

There are many people who use bad language and take God’s name in vain and never go to church on Sabbath. They put music and entertainment, and money and other things before God.

And the sad thing is that when they hear about Jesus they don’t want to let go of their sins, so they remain captives of the devil.

Do you know that people who want to hold onto their sins rather than holding onto Jesus are no smarter than a monkey?

I brought a short video with me this morning called “How to Catch a Monkey.”

Do you want to see how they catch monkeys in Africa? Let’s watch!

Did you see what happened? Why did the monkey get caught?

He got caught because he wouldn’t let go of the melon seeds so he could get his hand out of the hole.

This is a perfect illustration of what Satan tries to do to us.

He tries to get us to hold onto our sins until it’s too late, and we end up on Satan’s side in the Lake of Fire.

That would be awful wouldn’t it?

How many want to let go of sin and hold onto Jesus instead?

Yes! Let’s hold onto Jesus and end up in heaven on His side.