

05162021 New series overcoming temptation... what is temptation? the word "temptation" refers to the inducement to commit an act which appeals to an individual with negative consequences. the act tends to lead a person to regret such actions, for various reasons: spiritual, legal, social, relational, psychological (including feeling guilt and shame), health, economic, etc.

Like any good con, temptation relies on sleight of hand. Temptation is intoxicating it begins in the mind by enticing us to believe certain thoughts to be true ...when in reality they are lies... Temptations have an intoxicating effect as we romance in our minds imaginary outcomes ...and when people become intoxicated they lose touch with reality... they promise one result but deliver another.

- The power of temptation depends not upon the sin involved...but upon the advantage connected to it in regards to our circumstances... little advantage...little temptation...
- temptation seeks to find a place where I kind of agree with it as a viable solution to a perceived problem... a perceived wrong, a negative or positive circumstance, frustration
- why keep doing this...it's not going to work anyway...So....Giving up or giving in...is an adequate option...at least for right now. My business is nobody else's business...I am tired, God's way is not getting me anywhere
- I am justified in doing it my way because....He, she, them, they did such and such...and always remember to throw in the word ...first...
- why is this happening to me? as if No one has faced the situation you're in before...
- or you have extenuating circumstances that no one else can understand nor even appreciate...
- No one can identify with what you are going through..you have been good reward yourself with some sin the enemy always wants us to

identify ...with being stolen, losing out, taking too long...where is God ...why me! from...future fears,

- **Temptation offers ways out..** God work is to show us how to overcome the temptation to say on the right course, grow in strength, become what and who he desires us to be in our generation.
- Quick recap....Temptation always finds a place of resonance within us...or we would not be tempted....**and temptations are a common part of life for everyone**

1CO 10: 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Just as temptations are common...God has given just as common way to stand up under the weight of a temptation...

- Right are the start of Jesus ministry we are given tactics to overcome temptation...remember it is incremental if you cannot stand up under small temptations you will never conquer the big ones...

1. **Because the real battle is with with Satan the author of temptation, it was fitting for Jesus to start by facing him.** he is a thief to steal our identity, destroy our lives

2. Jesus had to be tempted so he could be a source of help for us when we are tempted

HEB 2: 18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

- Empathy with the sinner in His trial does not depend on the experience of sin...but **on the experience of overcoming the temptation**...and the suffering involved in resisting the temptation to sin.

The full force of a temptation and the power of it as attractiveness is only experienced by those who resist ...not by the one who gives in.

- That is why Jesus capacity to sympathize with those who fall to temptation is so complete...
- He was tempted in every way...but resisted it completely and got victory over it...He knows the full power that temptation can wield...and also how to overcome them...
- we must be vigilant...never think you have sin whooped

First temptation is always is an attack on identity...I know a woman whose father continually ridiculed her often calling her stupid...the temptation were to believe his words and make them her identity...to this day many years later... she does not really give an opinion of her own but quotes from others who she considers experts in the field which is being discussed...though she is one very smart person.

Destroy identity destroy self worth...the first attack on Jesus was on his identity as the son of God based on his circumstances

LK 4:1 Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,² where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.....Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

- so Jesus is led into the Desert...alone...we are often most vulnerable to temptation when alone...so Jesus dealt with his alone...
- he had been in the desert 40 days without food...tired and hungry...also makes us vulnerable to temptation...
- it seems the odds were intentionally stacked against Jesus...just like sometimes it feels that way to us...
- 40 days of fasting...

Jesus did not have a bionic digestive system that could fast 40 days before he felt some hunger pangs. It means that after 40 days he began to be racked by starvation pains—his digestive system began to digest live tissue.

Evidently God the Father had instructed Jesus not to eat until further notice. hold that picture as we answer an important question... Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted? There are actually many biblical answers to this question--but I want to focus on the reasons most applicable to you and me.

³ Then the devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

- he attacked his identity...calling into question his position and relationship with God the Father...wanted him to identify with something else... his mortality, his hunger, both real but not worth compromise
- mediate circumstance and a way to relieve it...perceived need

LK 4: 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone.’

- Jesus secure in his identity to the father...does not let the thought that he is not the son of God find any place to settle.....
- Jesus answered people lives are not lived by meeting temporal needs alone...that is only part of life...there is a greater life to be lived...it is in obedience to God! is not determined by human needs alone , but identity...
- if your living out your true identity you have no time to live out your false identity. if I live out my honorable identity I have no time to live out my shameful identity...
- so Gods word ...What God says belief system...which becomes his way of life...Scripture says... I believe so I do!

2)Satan operates from this perspective... Everyone has their price... to leave God...and that price is usually a combination of pain, loss and

disappointment or greater gain to give up god's way for a supposed better more rewarding way.

*LK 4: 5 Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 “I will give you the **glory** of these kingdoms and **authority** over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. 7 I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”*

- **if you give up that identify with God and identify with me.. i will make you famous... powerful, wealthy, I will meet all your wants... to tempt Jesus he offered what he thought would work... if you are the Son of God so world power ought to tempt him!**
- **you and meet...far less temptation works...**
- **and suffering is often the opportunity for a successful temptation to in draw one away from God**

JOB 1: 6 One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. 7 “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, “I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on.” 8 Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”

9 Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. 10 You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! 11 But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!” 12 “All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.

the only reason people stay with God is if he takes care of care of them to their liking...crash their lives and expectations...they will leave in a heartbeat...

- **the devil has a lot of experience..** Heck look at Adam and Eve...they had everything...could do everything..with only one prohibition...and I got them to leave you...
- **I can get Jesus too...and I can get you!**
- **the enemy always wants us to identify ...with what has been being stolen from us or taken from us ..equating that with God's love and care of us...when good happens he loves us when bad happens he either does not love us or is punishing us**
- what does this misidentification cause in us? fear...rejection, pain, anger grief...which leads to self protection...we are defensive, angry, anxious, hurt jealous envious...we look to self comfort...numb..escape lose faith...
- That is what Adam and Eve did...they ate the fruit... out of fear...which produces guilt and shame...death...
- Jesus returned their position gave them back honor, told them not to fear, covered their guilt...made them connect to him again.

3)His other strategy ...distort the word of God...you actually can determine how God should act...

LK 4: 9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off!"¹⁰ For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.'¹¹ And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'

- *If you are the son of God... God has to protect you...nothing bad can happen to you... even if you do self destructive things...see his word say it...because you are his son he won't let anything bad happen to you....*
- *see scripture says it*
- *so go ahead and throw yourself off the temple...he will catch you and you will not even stub your toe!*
- *for God's highest goal is you comfort in the world and protection from bad things in the world...he lives to serve you we hear it all the time...if God*

was good why does he allow fill in the blank...or I would never follow a God who allows such evil...God is loving so he accepts all behavior even that which he forbids, he doesn't really forbid it...

- *The truth ...his will be done not mine! and angels will guard you to accomplish God's will*
- *the context of that scripture satan quoted is*

Psalm 91: 9 If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, 10 no evil will conquer you....

- **you will be attacked but not conquered...**

Jesus responds... LK 4: 12 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.

- **you don't test God! He test you! he is the shot caller not me...**
- **My job is to trust him...in his sovereign will that is good...that's what we are to eat...survive on more than anything else...**

John 4:34 Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.

- **his will is my food! His will is found in his word!and I am sold out to finishing the work of why I am here**

LK 4: 13 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

when he was in need again... maybe you are in need?

know this we have help always available to stand up under the temptation...

HEB 4:14 4 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious

God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- Tempted to make choices out of fear, to run, tempted to isolate,
- Tempted to make choice out of anxiety, tempted to rage
- Tempted to love money...tempted to all the ism's
- Tempted sexually, tempted to hate, to despair, to hurt his enemies
- Tempted to be unforgiving, bitter revengeful
- Tempted to quit, tempted to lose hope,
- Tempted In every way just as we are...but always chose the right response....
- So what does he do...Get a big head, Gloat ...condemn us of weaker character.... NO

But beseeches us to approach his throne of Grace...His throne made out of Grace...(undeserved favor)

Not shaking or with fear of rejection ...but with confidence...confident he will help in our time of need...

Promising us we will receive mercy and help...when our time of need is present.

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