

Overcoming Temptation

Int.

1. Aim: To show that temptation is common to all and how we can meet and overcome temptation.
2. Jas.1:13-16 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16. Do not err, my beloved brethren."
 - a. God does not tempt man with evil
 - b. A man's own lust is involved in his temptation
 - c. Lust leads to sin and death
3. Temptation is no respecter of persons - The devil tries to get all of us.
 - a. Young people are tempted - Joseph - Gen. 39 [Potiphar's wife]
 - b. Strong people are tempted - Samson - Judges 14-16 [Delilah]
 - c. Important rulers are tempted - David - II Sam. 11 [Bathsheba]
 - d. Common People are tempted - Achan - Joshua 7 [Money]
 - e. Christ was tempted - Mt. 4:1-11 and Heb. 4:15
4. Temptation never takes a vacation - because the tempter is always at work. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" 1 Pet. 5:8.

Discussion

I. IMPLICATION OF TEMPTATION

A. Temptation

1. Try, Test
2. Solicitation to sin

B. Sin implies a standard of right and wrong

1. Sin = to miss the mark
2. Transgression - I Jn. 3:4 "for sin is the transgression of the law."
 - a. Trans = across
 - b. Gress = step
 - c. There is a mark or standard we are to follow.
3. Failure to do good - James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"

C. Situation ethics denies a standard of right or wrong

1. "Love" not law is the rule
2. I Jn.5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
3. Jn.14:15
4. Works of flesh condemned - Gal. 5:19-21

II. NATURE OF TEMPTATION

A. God is not the author

1. Jas. 1:13 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:"
 - a. No one can correctly say "I am tempted of God"
 - b. Word tempt means Trial - Like in Jas.1:2-12
2. God does not make evil suggestions or solicit man to do evil.
3. God is wholly removed from evil - He could never desire to see it or cause others to sin!!
4. Man often tries to blame God for temptation just like Adam blamed God for giving him that Woman.
5. But God neither tempts nor is tempted!!!
6. Now God does test our faith - as we read in Gen.22:1 - but he does not entice man to sin!! "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am." KJV - in the ASV it uses the word prove, in the NKJV it uses the word tested

B. The sources of temptation

1. From Without
 - a. Jesus warned about those who cause others to stumble - Mt.18:7 "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"
 - b. Paul spoke of the influence of evil companions - I Cor.15:33 - "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

- c. In the presence of some people it is easy to do wrong, while in the presence of other people it is difficult to do or suggest anything wrong!
- d. The company of faithful Christians can be a great help.
- e. We can't get completely away from the evil crowd. But we do not have to live like them.

2. From Those we love

- a. Jesus said, "A man's foes shall be they of his own household" Mt.10:36
- b. Sometimes parents discourage their children from living the Christian life.
- c. Sometimes a Christian will marry one who is not a Christian and they will tempt them to become unfaithful to Christ

3. From Within

- a. Jas. 1:14 -our own lust - desires seeking satisfaction "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."
- b. God created man with the urges, drives and desires
- c. God has also given holy and righteous ways to satisfy the urges and needs of all humans
- d. We must develop self control -- some try to excuse their wrong doing by saying "I couldn't help myself" 1 Cor. 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
- e. We need a complete suit of spiritual armor - Eph.6:13-17 to stand against all the temptations we face

C. How Do you handle Temptations?

1. Fight temptation with information

- a. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
- b. Know how temptation works
- c. Avoid:
 - (1) Pornography - Pr.23:7 "For as he thinketh..."
 - (2) Dancing - Gal. 5:19 - lasciviousness
 - (3) Indecent clothing -
 - (a) I Tim.2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array."
 - (b) MATT 5:27-28 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28. But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

2. Resist temptation with determination

- a. Jas. 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
- b. Daniel resisted - Daniel 1:8-10 V. 8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

- c. III. Sin - Temptation "Who will know?" A Christian boy away at college was confronted with temptation. He continued to push away from it. Some of his fellow students pressed him to yield. One of them in exasperation said, "Come on and do it! Who will know the difference?" He Answered: "I will know, God will know, my Christian friends will know, and when Christ comes everyone will know. Sorry fellows, but you'll have to count me out." [See Illustrations "Sin" Who will Know?]

3. Withstand temptation in dedication

- a. The More one loves righteousness the less enticement to sin
- (1) Heb.1:9 said of Christ "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."
- (2) Ps. 119:104 "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."
- b. "As the Sandwich Islanders believes that the strength and valor of the enemy he kills passes into himself, so we gain the strength of the temptation we resist." Emerson N.D.T. p. 664
- c. Lot's righteous soul was vexed by the immorality in Sodom - II Pet. 2:7-8
 "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8. For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"
- d. You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

4. Watch and Pray

- a. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt. 26:41
- b. We need to be constantly watching because we know that our adversary is never completely defeated.
- c. Illustration: "The Devil looks like a nice guy"

III. HOW SIN DEVELOPSA. 1st Step

1. Desire + Opportunity = Temptation [1st step]
 - a. Lust = desire - a strong desire for something
 - b. Enticement = an opportunity and encouragement to satisfy the desire
2. A small boy is tempted to steal some cookies when he wants them and has a good chance to get them and not be seen.

B. 2nd Step

1. Desire + Opportunity + Action = Sin
 - a. Temptation leads to sin only when you yield and act upon it.
 - b. Sin requires the added step of action.
2. It is not wrong to be tempted - but it is wrong to yield

C. 3rd step

1. Desire + Opportunity + Action + No Forgiveness = Punishment
 - a. This final stage is the consequence of unforgiven sin - DEATH
 - b. This refers to the spiritual separation from God, which is the wages of sin
 - c. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; "
2. Satan will have overcome if we receive this final punishment.

CONCLUSION

1. Temptation is an ever-present factor in living the Christian life
 - a. Jesus mentioned it in his prayer - Mt. 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."
 - b. Temptations are common to all and can be escaped if we see the way of escape - I Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
2. Man is no stronger than his weakest moment
3. Jas. 1:16 "Do not err, my beloved brethren."
 - a. No degree of temptation justifies any degree of sin.
 - b. It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it. Benjamin Franklin
 - c. WE can say NO to temptation. God does not condemn us for being tempted; He does hold us responsible for how we react to temptation.
4. Yield not to temptation!!
5. When we sin we can be forgiven 1 John 2:1-2 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

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