

Sunday, February 14, 2021.
Serving Jesus - Not Satan.

Our Verse for the day: John 3:16 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Our devotion today outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for February 14, 2021.

TEMPTATION: JAMES 1:9-15

Today I would like for us to look at temptation for a few minutes and get a better understanding of temptation. I would like for us to look at five things about temptation.

1. What is temptation?
2. Ways that we are tempted.
3. Why are we tempted?
4. When are we tempted?
5. Ways around temptation.

I. WHAT IS TEMPTATION? We find throughout the Bible where people were tempted or tested. Some people were tempted because of God, some because of man, and all by Satan.

Definition of Temptation: In the NT it means to entice to do something against the will. In the OT it means to prove or test.

With this definition, if we are Christians, we will be tempted.

A. One might say well I am never tempted. If we can say this we had better: Take a long look at ourselves, and our relationship with God.

B. The Christian people are the only ones that the devil is going to tempt. If you are not living the Christian life then the devil has no need to work with you, you are already serving him.

C. Let us look at a few examples:

1. Adam and Eve.
2. Job. Job 1:7-9 This is the classic example in the OT. Satan ask permission to tempt Job and received it from God.
 - a. Lost his family.
 - b. Lost his wealth (camels, barns, etc.)
 - c. Lost his health, but he remained true to God.
3. Peter: One of the twelve: Told Jesus, "**I will follow Thee all the way,**" but the devil tempted him, and he denied Jesus.
4. Jesus: The son of God was not too good for the devil to tempt.

Matthew 4:3, 6, 9.

1. Stones to bread, Matthew 4:3
2. Jump off the Temple, Matthew 4:6
3. Bow down and worship the devil. Matthew 4:9

Jesus overcame the temptations.

II. WAYS THAT WE ARE TEMPTED.

1. Jobs: the work that we do, the conditions of the work.
2. Friends and Family: This may be one of the best pieces of equipment that the devil uses to tempt us.
 - A. by dress, B. by language, C. by habits, anything that the devil can use to keep us from serving God, he will.
3. Money: It is said that money is the root of all evil, but it is not. I Timothy 6:10 reads: **FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL: WHICH WHILE SOME COVETED AFTER, THEY HAVE ERRED FROM THE FAITH, AND PIERCED THEMSELVES THROUGH WITH MANY SORROWS.** Some people will go to any degree to get money, they will neglect God, Church, Self, and anything else just to get a few riches here of earth.

III. We have two great kingdoms on earth; Jesus and the devil: The devil will try to:

1. Draw us away from God.
2. To get us as low as possible.
3. To break our image with God.
4. To come to his side.

Way too often we are led into temptation without even knowing it. One foolish act, one foolish word is all it takes.

Jesus knew about this when he said: (Mark 14:38) **³⁸ Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.**

IV. WHEN ARE WE TEMPTED? When it is least expected. When we do not have a need (rich). Away from home, on vacation, away from parents, etc.

V. A Way Out: 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.**

II Peter 2:9. **THE LORD KNOWETH HOW TO DELIVER THE GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATIONS AND TO PRESERVE THE UNJUST UNTO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT TO BE PUNISHED.**

As we continue to deal with Covid-19, let us all be aware that Satan desires us to be on his side, but Jesus is the one that is calling us to serve Him.

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