

Temptation

Lesson 1

Temptation And Our Response To It

Introduction

- Common to wrongly define and misuse words especially related to the Bible
- Example – baptism wrongly defined as sprinkling or pouring instead of immersion
- Wrong use leads to wrong thinking and in many cases wrong practices
- Same is true when we use the word tempt or temptation

2

Introduction

- Example – I was tempted to eat that piece of pie
- Wrongly define and use temptation in a way that includes our sinful desire to do something whether we actually do it or not
- Get our response to temptation mixed up with temptation itself
- In matters of indifference, no serious consequence

3

Introduction

- When applied to sinful situations, this wrong definition leads to wrong thinking and practices regarding temptation
- Wrong teaching - unless there is sinful desire there is no temptation
- If we desire something, there is temptation but no sin unless we act on our sinful desires

4

Purposes of These Lessons

- Clearly define temptation and distinguish it from our response to it
- Become better equipped to fight against temptation at the point of overcoming sinful desires
- Avoid accepting and teaching positions that allow us to feel comfortable in our sins rather than repenting of them and developing self-control

5

Purposes of These Lessons

- Accurately understand nature of Jesus' temptations – not crediting Him with sinful desires as some do

6

Temptation And Our Response To It

What is temptation?

Who is the tempter?

At what point does temptation occur?

How powerful is Satan?

How should we respond to temptation?

7

What Is Temptation?

Greek word "peirazo" (pronounced pi-rad-zo) meaning to try whether a thing can be done...to attempt... to try, make trial of, test:...to try or test one's faith, virtue, character, by enticement to sin...to solicit to sin, to tempt

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

8

What Is Temptation?

- Temptation can either have good or bad sense
- Can mean just to attempt to do something or get someone else to do something not involving sin
- But our focus in these lessons will be on the meaning that involves soliciting someone to sin by enticement

9

Some Different Ways Tempt Is Used In New Testament

Act 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Act 16:7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;

10

Some Different Ways Tempt Is Used In New Testament

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

1Co 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

11

Who Is The Tempter?

- When tempting involves soliciting others to do evil, Satan is clearly identified as the tempter
- God never tempts with evil or can be tempted by evil

12

Satan Is The Tempter Not God

Jas 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Jas 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

13

Satan Is The Tempter Not God

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1Th 3:5 For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

14

At What Point Does Temptation Occur?

- Some wrongly believe and teach that temptation does not occur unless and until we desire the thing by which we are tempted
- If we do not desire it, there is no temptation
- Temptations are presented by the Devil from without and our responses to them come from within – either resisting or yielding to temptations

15

At What Point Does Temptation Occur?

- If we follow God's way of escape by yielding our minds and bodies to His control, we will withstand temptation
- No matter what our response is, when Satan solicits us to sin, we have been tempted
- Important – evil is from without from the Devil and our response to it is from within, learned and practiced by our free choice

16

Temptations Occur Whether There Are Sinful Desires Or Not

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

17

Responses To Temptation Are Learned

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Eph 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

18

Responses To Temptation Are Learned

Eph 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Eph 4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

Eph 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

19

Responses To Temptation Are Learned

Eph 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

Eph 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Eph 4:24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

20

How Much Power Does The Tempter Have?

- By His death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God, Jesus has won total victory over Satan
- Although Satan has the power to entice us to sin, he does not have the power to overrule our will if we choose to submit ourselves to the Lord
- Forgiveness of sins, escape from temptation and hope of eternal life are for all who would obey the Lord

21

Jesus Victorious Over Satan

Heb 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Heb 2:15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

22

Satan Cannot Force Us To Disobey The Lord

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

23

Wrong Response – Isolate From The World

Col 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

Col 2:21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

24

Wrong Response – Isolate From The World

Col 2:22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)--in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

Col 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

25

Wrong Response – Deify Our Sinful Desires

Mar 7:20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.

Mar 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

26

Wrong Response – Deify Our Sinful Desires

Mar 7:22 deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness.

Mar 7:23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

27

Right Response - Die To Sin And Live For Christ

Rom 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

28

Right Response - Die To Sin And Live For Christ

Rom 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

29

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30