

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - June 23, 2022

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Title: "When You Are Tempted"

Scripture Reference: Genesis 3:1-6

"(v1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (v2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (v3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (v4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (v5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (v6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

I. Introduction

A. Before I begin the discussion of this lesson's topic "When You Are Tempted", I want to first point out a few things that are extremely important that are recorded in Genesis Chapter 3.

B. I want you to observe these "**first**" time occurrences recorded in the Bible.

1. In Genesis 3:1, the first occurrence or the first-time doubt is cast upon the Word of God. Here is what I mean: "And he ((the serpent)) said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said,"

a. This was an attempt to cast doubt in the woman's mind concerning what God had said. This is still happening today in the year 2022. God said what He meant, and He meant what He said.

2. In verse 4, here is the "**first**" recorded **lie** in Scripture. Notice the words of the serpent after casting doubt on God's Word. "And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die."

- a. That is a lie, and it contradicts Genesis 2:17 where God said - "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

Comment: Satan was undoubtedly working through the serpent and the Scripture records that Satan (the devil) is a liar, and he is the father of lies (see John 8:44).

Note: I will discuss this more in-dept in another Bible Study session.

C. Now, continuing on with the lesson, "When You Are Tempted." The tactics for temptation haven't changed much at all since the first one recorded in Genesis Chapter 3. The principles involved are identical.

D. The only thing that has changed is the bait. Our forbidden fruit may not be hanging on a tree, but it is still off limits. Here are some lessons that we can learn from what Adam and Eve faced in the garden.

II. Lesson # 1 - We can reduce temptation by avoiding the places of temptation.

A. Have you ever wondered why God put the forbidden tree in the middle of the garden? That was no accident.

B. God could have placed it anywhere, but He chose that spot because He wanted Adam and Eve to know exactly where it was **so they could avoid it.**

Points:

- 1) It is always easier to avoid temptation than to overcome it.
- 2) Many times, we get into trouble because we hang around the

wrong places.

C. Temptation usually begins with a thought to go to a certain Place (be it physically or mentally). If we can't physically get to that certain place, our minds can become fixated on that place and when that happens, mentally we are there.

D. There are also times when we may be influenced by someone and our perspective about something changes. When this happens, what was once **not** a temptation, **now becomes** a temptation.

E. The temptation for Eve began after the influence of the serpent, when she took a trip to the middle of the garden with her perspective now being changed.

F. The tree of life was also in the middle of the garden, but that was not why she went there this particular time. Genesis 3:6 says - "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat."

Comments:

- 1) Eve's perspective concerning the forbidden tree had changed. Adam is not to be excused because he also ate from the tree.
- 2) Avoiding the place of temptation is important. Consider this -

A Teachable Moment

- (1) Every sin that we have ever committed in the past or the sins we commit right now, and in the future, can be identified in at least one, or even two, or all three of the areas in which Eve was tempted.
- (2) Consider Genesis 3:6 once again, and then 1 John 2:16 which says: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but

is of the world." (1 John 2:16)

(3) "The woman (Eve) saw that the tree was good for food ((this is the lust of the flesh)), and that it was pleasant to the eyes ((the lust of the eyes)), and a tree to be desired to make one wise ((the pride of life)).

(4) Eve was deceived, Adam ate knowingly (cf. 1 Timothy 2:14).

** Therefore, I repeat, every sin that we have ever committed or will commit, is found in the areas referred to in 1 John 2:16.

G. Jesus taught us to pray, "**Lead us not into temptation**" (Luke 11:4). This does not mean that God leads us into temptation, and we must beg Him to stop doing it. It means that God can lead us in such a way that we will avoid the areas of temptation.

H. This is why Jesus said, "**watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:** ..." (Matthew 26:41).

I. Watching and praying can keep us from entering into the areas where we will be tempted.

III. Lesson #2 - We open ourselves to temptation when we decide to provide for the flesh.

A. Romans 13:14 tells us to make no provision for the flesh. We make provision for the flesh when we attempt to provide for our desires in the wrong way. "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. (James 1:14)

B. This means that the desires of our flesh can carry us to the wrong place(s) and tempt us.

C. Provision means "to think ahead." If a person wants to be tempted, he or she will think ahead and make plans to be in a place where they can provide for the flesh.

Point: It is hard to be victorious over temptation when you also want to be overcome by it.

D. *Consider this story.*

One day, little Johnny was told by his mother to come straight home after school and not stop at the baseball field. However, Johnny decided to carry his ball glove with him to school, just in case he was tempted.

E. By thinking ahead, and making plans to disobey, He made provision for the flesh.

IV. Lesson #3 - When we move into the place of temptation, Satan will be waiting there to tempt us.

A. When Adam and Eve arrived at the middle of the garden, guess who just happened to be waiting at the tree? Satan!

Remember: Satan was working through the serpent.

B. How did he know to wait for them at that spot? Because he knew that was the place where they could be tempted.

Comment: Satan can tempt us easier in some places rather than others.

C. Not only are we to make no provision for the flesh, but we are also, to make no place for the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Point: If you make a place in your mind for Satan to fill, he will fill it!

V. Lesson #4 - After we have entered into temptation, we become blinded to the consequences.

A. Outside of the area of temptation, we can in many instances see the consequences of what can happen to us if we yield. But after we have entered into temptation, we become blinded to the consequences of our actions.

B. Temptations don't usually look like temptations when you have been observing them for a while; and after you have entered into temptation, you generally ignore all of the warning signs, because you become blinded to the consequences.

C. Here is a true story.

The manager of a historical mansion in the state of Florida, was having a problem with tourists touching the bedspreads and curtains in one of the furnished master bedrooms.

The **"Do Not Touch"** signs seemed to encourage the visitors to touch them anyway. As a result, the manager decided to change the sign to read - **"Wash Hands Immediately After Touching."**

You can guess what happened. The touching immediately ended. People thought the curtains and bedspreads might be treated with a harmful preserving chemical. [Tan, Paul Lee, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, Rockville, MD; Assurance Publishers, 1979, 1534.]

They stopped touching because they imagined harmful consequences if they yielded to the temptation.

D. The alcoholic never dreamed he would end up in the gutter when he took his first drink. But he could remember saying, "One drink never hurt anyone."

E. Eve never dreamed she would lose her innocence. It never occurred to her that Satan had been lying.

Point: Satan counts on the power of his lies and his ability to deceive people, into believing that they can get away with yielding to temptations, without suffering the consequences.

VI. Lesson #5 - The pull of the temptation increases the closer we get to the forbidden fruit.

A. Many people want to play with temptation as long as they can, thinking they can walk away from it at any time. But it's not that easy, because the closer you get to the temptation, the more pull

it has.

B. Will power grows weaker as we get nearer to the temptation.

VII. Lesson #6 - Forbidden fruit is never as sweet as you have been told it will be.

A. After Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit, she gave some to Adam, and he ate. After he ate, their outlook concerning themselves took on a whole new perspective. Genesis 3:7 says - "... and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

B. They were ashamed because of what they had done. Prior to their disobedience, they had no shame.

C. Forbidden fruit leaves a bitter aftertaste of misery and bondage and it is never as sweet as we have been told.

VIII. Lesson #7 - When we are full of God's fruit, we won't be hungry for forbidden fruit.

A. God had given Adam and Eve all of the trees of the garden to eat from except one. If they had continued to eat from the fruit God had provided for them, they would not have been hungry for the forbidden fruit.

Question: Do you see how important it is to be obedient to what God has said? There is an old hymn titled - "Yield Not To Temptation" and the first line says, "for yielding is sin."

B. If we don't fulfil our needs in the right way, we will look for the wrong ways to meet those needs.

IX. The Key To Victory Over Temptation

A. In Galatians 5:16, the Apostle Paul wrote - "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

B. The only thing that will displace the desires of the flesh is a genuine work of the Holy Spirit inside of your heart. When we

yield to the Spirit's control, He puts His desires within us to want what He wants (Gal. 5:17).

C. When we begin to desire the things of the Holy Spirit rather than the things of the flesh, He then fulfills our desires in the way that God wants us to be fulfilled.

D. Perhaps you have been continually defeated in your battle with temptation. There is some Good News; you don't have to be defeated. God has promised that sin shall not have dominion (i.e., power) over you (Romans 6:14).

E. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can walk in Victory.

Reducing Your Temptation

- What places of temptation will you avoid?
- Identify the boundaries where you enter into temptation. Then make a commitment that by God's grace to not cross the boundary line.
- Ask someone whom you trust to hold you accountable for the weak areas of your life. Have this person to ask you at least once a week how you are doing in those areas.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages which follow but filling in the blank spaces. All passages have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"There hath no _____ taken you but such as is _____ to man: but God is _____, who will not _____ you to be _____ above that ye are _____; but will with the _____ also make a way to _____, that ye may be able to _____ it."

[1 Corinthians 10:13]

"Because thou hast _____ the word of my _____, I also will keep thee from the hour of _____, which shall come upon all the _____, to try them that _____ upon the earth."

[Revelation 3:10]

"And _____ us not into _____, but _____ us from _____: For thine is the _____, and the _____, and the _____, for ever. _____."

[Matthew 6:13]

"But put ye on the _____ _____ _____, and make not _____ for the _____, to _____ the _____ thereof."

[Romans 13:14]

"Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the Lord, and in the _____ of his might. Put on the _____ _____ of God, that ye may be able to _____ against the _____ of the devil." **[Ephesians 6:10-11]**

My prayer is that you have been encouraged from the study of this lesson.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." (Jude 24, 25)

Jude 3

Pastor Austin