

## Temptation

Written: 10/2022, typed 12/15/22

- In Matthew 6:13 (part of Lord's prayer), Jesus prays to the Father "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
  - Of course, this is just an example prayer – not meant to be repeated verbatim necessarily
  - This is a good list of things we ought to pray for but not all inclusive
    - Philippians 4:6 – "...in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."
    - 1 Timothy 2:1-4 – pray for all people, including government officials
  - So does God lead us into temptation? NO
    - James 1:13-15
    - 1 Peter 5:8
      - God does not tempt us, rather it is by our own evil desires (conceived by Satan) that we are tempted
    - What about Job? (Job 2:3)
      - If you just look at this verse, it appears that God is bringing these afflictions on Job at Satan's request
      - But we all know that is not the case
      - Job 1:9-12 – God had a hedge around Job, he simply removed the hedge and Scripture is clear that Satan is responsible for Job's afflictions
  - So God does not lead us into temptation
  - But He also is not going to prevent every temptation from coming upon us
    - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
      - God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear
      - Rather, when temptation comes, He will provide a way of escape
      - Escape = God is faithful. Think of Godly things (Philippians 4:8)
  - So Jesus is praying for that escape in Matthew 6:13
- This sermon will be on temptation – 3 examples
- Judas (Luke 22:1-6)
  - This is the Luke account of Judas agreeing to betray Jesus
  - Parallel accounts: Matthew 26:14, Mark 14:10
  - Matthew 26:15 indicates that the agreed upon price was 30 pieces of silver
  - Judas problem: greed
    - 1 Timothy 6:10 – "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."
    - Unfortunately, this applied to Judas here
  - John 13:29 and John 12:6 tell us that Judas was in charge of group's moneybag (treasurer)

- John 12:6 goes further by saying that Judas was a thief. Helped himself to the contents of the moneybag.
- Consider the following:
  - John 21:25 – tells us if everything Jesus did was recorded, the amount of books required could not be contained by the world
  - John 9:3 – miracles were done to display God’s power
  - Jesus did many things that we do not have recorded for us, but Judas would have seen most of them
  - Yet, for 30 pieces of silver, he betrayed the Son of God
  - \$91 - \$441 value in today’s currency (depending on coin used)
- In reading Matthew 27:1-5, I do not think that Judas realized that his actions were going to lead to Jesus’ death. Slap on wrist perhaps – beating, told to stop preaching as apostles in Acts 5.
- When he realized this, that’s when he felt the remorse and hanged himself
- Notice wording in vs 3 – **“Satan entered into Judas...”**
- Peter (**Luke 22:31-34**)
  - This is the Luke account of Jesus telling Peter that he will deny Him
  - Parallel accounts: Matthew 26:34, Mark 14:30
  - We can read that Peter did deny Christ 3 times in Luke 22:54-62
  - Luckily, unlike Judas, Peter repented of his actions and was restored in John 21:15-19
    - Judas had earthly sorrow and gave up, but Peter had Godly sorrow and repented
  - Notice wording in vs 31 – **“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.”**
  - Sift – examine thoroughly as to isolate that which is most important or useful
  - Satan identified Peter as important to Jesus’ work and wanted to remove him from the equation
    - Unfortunately, Satan was successful with Peter this time
  - At least one other example of Satan sifting someone as wheat: Job
  - We’ve already talked about Job a little bit, but let’s expand
  - In Job 1, 2, angels were presenting themselves to God and Satan joined (1:6, 2:1)
  - Both times God asked Satan: **“Have you considered Job? Blameless and upright”**
  - CH 1: Satan responds **“remove his hedge and let me strike his possessions”**
  - CH 2: Satan responds **“let me strike his flesh”**
  - Compare/contrast Peter and Job
    - Despite afflictions, Job did not curse God (1:22, 2:10) vs Peter denied Christ
      - Job did not understand what was going on – thought God was punishing him but did not know why
      - The whole time, Job’s 3 friends (Bildad, Eliphaz, Zophar) were trying to convince him that he’s done something wrong
      - Even Job’s wife tried getting Job to curse God

- Finally, God responds in CH 38 by telling all 4 of them that “I’m God and you’re not”
  - Job repented of his questioning
  - But I do not think Job sinned through all this – just did not know what was going on
  - CH 42 – God does not rebuke Job, just the 3 friends
  - 42:7 – Job was right (not by thinking God punished him, but by acknowledging his lack of knowledge of God’s plan)
    - Peter denied Christ 3 times as predicted in Luke 22
    - He was restored in John 21 though
  - Notice wording in vs 31 again though: **“Satan sifted Peter as wheat”**
- Ananias (Acts 5:1-6)
  - Notice wording in vs 3 – “...why has **Satan filled your heart** to lie to the Holy Spirit...”
  - Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property for \$1000 and brought \$500 to the apostles saying that \$500 was the full price of the sale
  - This was a lie to God, not to man (vs 4)
  - How did Peter know they were lying?
    - Holy Spirit must have told him somehow
    - Acts 8:29 – Holy Spirit spoke to Philip
  - Would there have been anything wrong with this if they hadn’t lied?
    - Peter indicates NO in vs 4
      - It was YOUR property
      - And the proceeds were AT YOUR DISPOSAL
      - Problem was that they lied
  - Again, notice vs 3: **“Satan filled your heart”**
- 3 examples, we have the following:
  - Satan entered Judas (Luke 22:3)
  - Satan sifted Peter as wheat (Luke 22:31)
  - Satan filled Ananias’ heart (Acts 5:3)
- Did Satan make these men sin? NO
  - **Revelation 3:20**
    - Jesus is knocking on door to our hearts – wants us to submit to Him
    - At same time, Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
    - Notice: Jesus is knocking on door, will not force His way in
    - We have the choice to let Him in or leave Him knocking
    - The men in these examples simply submitted to Satan, not Jesus
- Remember, Satan also tempted Jesus in Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4
  - Each recorded temptation – Jesus responded “It is written” or “It says”
    - 2 Timothy 2:15 – one approved of God correctly handles the Word
    - A key to overcoming temptation: knowing Scripture and correctly handling it as Jesus did

- Mark 1:12-13
  - We just have the 3 temptations recorded for us, but Jesus was being tempted the entire time
- Luke 4:13
  - Satan was not done with Jesus
  - Simply left for an opportune time
- Hebrews 4:15 – Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, He was just without sin
- Another example of how to overcome temptation: Genesis 39:7-12
  - Vs 8-9: 1<sup>st</sup> time – Joseph tried reasoning with Potiphar’s wife
  - Vs 10: this happened repeatedly, day after day – Joseph did not listen
  - Vs 11-12: last time – Joseph ran
  - Sometimes we just need to simply remove ourselves from the temptation situation
- Make no mistake: Satan is after you and I as well
  - In Job 1:7 and 2:2, before God and Satan talked about Job, where was Satan?
    - “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”
  - Satan was not just taking a daily walk for exercise, he was tempting people
  - Similarly, Revelation 20:7-10, we read that Satan will one day deceive the nations and gather them for battle against God
  - But there is no battle as before Satan and his troops can do anything, God destroys them with fire
  - Satan’s troops were as numerous as the sand of the sea
  - So Satan is clearly after the world and Christians in particular
    - Already has the people of the world, so he is primarily after Christians
  - In Luke 22:31, Satan sifted Peter as wheat (identified him as useful to Christ)
    - If we are doing our jobs properly (Christians), he’s going to identify us as useful to Christ as well and try to remove us from the equation
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
  - Notice vs 12: As Christians we should be standing firm. But take heed, lest we fall.
  - Constantly be aware of Satan’s schemes
- Matthew 7:3-5
  - Many points could be made from this Scripture, but in vs 5, what are we to do when in this situation?
    - 1<sup>st</sup>: get the log out of our eye
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: help brother get speck out of his eye
  - So, not only are we to take heed of ourselves, but also our brothers
- Galatians 6:1
  - Describes sin as a trap (similar to the idea of an animal trap)
  - We are to help others out gently
  - But be careful, lest you be tempted as well
- Read from 3 places: 1 Peter 5:8, Genesis 3:1, Revelation 20:2

- From the beginning of time, Satan has been after God's people
- And he will continue to be until he's defeated by God
- But have no fear, we have an answer (**1 Peter 5:9-11**)