

Temptation

Lesson 2 (Mark 1:9-13) "What we should do"

I. We should recognize the power of temptation.

C.S. Lewis said: "Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives into temptation after 5 minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: In our members there is a slumbering inclination toward desires which are both sudden and fierce..... It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for many or that strange desire for the beauty of the world. When so tempted God loses all reality and only the desire of the creature is real. Satan does not fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God.

A. Our heart is no match against temptation.

Proverb 10:20

Proverb 28:26

Jeremiah 17:9

1. Peter trusted his heart.

Matthew 26:33

2. People today trust their hearts.

B. Temptation will darken the heart.

1 Corinthians 4:4

1. Temptation can so dominate man's heart that he can think of nothing else.

2. It is too strong for man's heart.

II. We should recognize sin is the fruit of temptation.

A. Some are aware of their sin but not the temptation that caused it.

1. They sin but don't change their friends.

1 Corinthians 15:33

2. They sin but don't change their ambitions.

1 Timothy 6:9

B. Some are enjoying the temptation and seek to expand it.

1. Hezekiah enjoyed his riches and showed them to the ambassador of Babylon.

2. David had dormant pride and when Satan stirred it, he numbered his people.

3. Judas was always covetous and Satan used it to betray Jesus.

4. Jehu was gaining a reputation for zeal, but pride caused him to expand it with Jonadab.

III. We should war against temptations as well as sin.

A. Heed the warning about evil company.

Proverb 2:12-20

Proverb 4:14-19

B. Beware of unwise cries of Christian liberty.

1. They claim they are able to hear and see all.

2. Christian liberty has rules to be profitable.

a. Not everything is beneficial.

1 Corinthians 10:23

b. But all must be for God's glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31

C. Be convinced of our inability to keep from temptation.

Matthew 16:13a

1. God alone can keep me from temptation.

Jude 1:24

John 17:15

a. If we pray we will find help.

Hebrews 4:16

b. If we watch we will escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Romans 16:20

D. Be watching for danger signs.

1. Unusual prosperity must be watched.

Proverbs 30:8-9

2. A spiritual apathy must be watched.

3. Times of great spiritual enjoyment must be watched.

a. After Jesus was baptized, came the wilderness temptations.

b. After Peter's promise to never fall, he fell.

E. Be storing up provisions against temptations.

1. Store up the awareness of God's love for us in Christ.

a. Joseph resisted with this.

Genesis 39:9

b. We are to resist with this.

2 Corinthians 5:14

2. Store up the provision of the fear of God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 3:5-7

3. Store up the provision of grace.

*Delight in the forgiveness

*Delight in our privileges in Christ

*Delight in the beauty of holiness