

“Temptation”

Luke 11:4

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I. Introduction

A. Picnic in two weeks!

1. I especially love the ice cream
2. Our vacation
 - a. Along the Erie Canal in Fairport, New York
 - b. “White Lightning” ice cream
 - c. The best I’ve ever had
3. Visiting Cooperstown
 - a. Baseball Hall of Fame
 - b. Alex was trying to save all the pennies he could in order to buy a baseball bat. But he had a hard struggle.

One night when he was saying his prayers, his mother heard him say fervently: *“O Lord, please help me save my money for a baseball bat. And, God, don’t let the ice cream man come down our street any more!”*

4. We each have our own personal favorite flavors

B. The many flavors of temptation

1. Things that lure us to sin
2. None of us is above attack
3. Just one look...and a battle breaks out in your mind
4. Jesus spoke about temptation in the Lord’s Prayer

II. Review

A. Finishing the Lord's Prayer

B. In Luke 11...but using Matthew 6

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| 1. God's Paternity | -- | <i>Our Father in heaven</i> |
| 2. God's Priority | -- | <i>Hallowed be your name</i> |
| 3. God's Program | -- | <i>Your kingdom come</i> |
| 4. God's Plan | -- | <i>Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven</i> |
| 5. God's Provision | -- | <i>Give us this day our daily bread</i> |
| 6. God's Pardon | -- | <i>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors</i> |

***now

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|---|
| 7. God's Protection | -- | <i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one</i> |
| 8. God's Preeminence | -- | <i>For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen</i> |

III. Text

A. Background

1. *And lead us not into "temptation"*
 - a. "Peirasmos" (pi-ras-mos')
 - b. Gets translated as both "to test" or "to tempt"
 - c. Can be positive or negative
 - d. A test to prove something
 - e. Same Greek word used in Hebrews 11:17

(17) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac

1. Tested his faith, not tempted to do evil

f. Yet some tests can be both

1. Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 50:20

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good”

2. The Lord’s Prayer is clearly in reference to Satanic temptation

a. *“deliver us from the evil one”*

B. Important that we understand temptation

1. Because every one of us will be tempted this coming week

IV. Understanding Temptation

1. Every man, woman and child is vulnerable to temptation

a. Can never get too old to be tempted

b. Can never be too spiritual to be tempted

1. Galatians 6:1

(1) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

2. Taking delight in the fall of a brother

3. Thinking you’re above such foolishness

4. I Corinthians 10:12

(12) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!

5. You will never reach a plateau where you are above the reach of temptation

a. I Corinthians 10:12-13

(12) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (13) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.

c. Can never be too secluded to be tempted

1. The Constantine Codex
 - a. The monks on an isolated Grecian Isle
 - b. No females of any animal....except hens for eggs
2. Still tempted in other ways

2. Temptation comes in many flavors

a. Physical

1. Sexual
 - a. Dating
 - b. Cheating on spouse
2. Food
 - a. Gluttony
 - b. Drunkenness

b. Mental

1. Anger
2. Hatred
3. Lustful thoughts
 - a. The internet
4. Pride
5. Bitterness
6. Jealousy
7. Apathy

8. Hypocrisy

3. *Don't blame God*

a. James 1:13

(13) Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he Himself tempt anyone."

b. God will test your faith...but never tempt you to sin

4. *The sin is in the yielding*

a. James 1:14

(14) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

1. Your own desires

2. When you let those thoughts grow in your mind

b. Jesus was tempted in every way, yet did not sin

1. The sin would have been to yield

c. We shouldn't make provision for temptation

1. One day Bob was given definite instruction by his mother not to go in swimming in the nearby pond. Shortly afterward, Bob was to pass the pond on his way to the ball park. He took along with him his bathing suit, just in case he was tempted!

d. We should establish boundaries

1. The boy who said, "When I pass a watermelon patch, I can't keep my mouth from 'watering,' but I CAN RUN!"

e. Avoidance is one of the safest boundaries – run

5. *Victory over temptation leads to growth*

a. James 1:2-4

(2) My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- b. Passing tests
- c. They just keep getting tougher

6. Never underestimate “the evil one”

- a. I Peter 5:8

(8) Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- 1. Seeks to cause you to stumble
- 2. Hard at work, today!
- b. Satan is much more powerful and experienced than you
- c. Satan’s got a plan for your life

- 1. Ephesians 6:10-11

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

7. You have the resources necessary to defeat temptation

- a. I John 4:4

Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!

- 1. God within you
- b. I Corinthians 6:19

(19) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

8. God will never allow Satan to tempt you beyond what you can endure

- a. Promised in I Corinthians 10:12-13

(12) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (13) No temptation has seized you except what 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 also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

b. The way out is often through it!

1. ***“that you may be able to bear it”***

c. Some bear it for a lifetime

9. We are meant to stay in the world despite temptations

a. Would be nice to go straight to heaven when saved – but that's not God's plan

b. The prayer of Jesus to His Father regarding you and me (John 17:15)

(15) I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one.

c. This is where the fight is raging

d. Our calling?

1. Reach the lost

2. Glorify God

3. Defeat Satan

10. Satan goes after “high value targets”

a. The greater your potential for service, the greater the attacks you will suffer

b. Satan goes after “high value” targets

1. Most Christians require little of Satan's attention

a. Apathetic or already compromised

2. He attacks those with potential

3. Satan will use your strengths to tempt you

a. Your intellect

- b. Will plant seeds of doubt
- c. Agnostics and doubt

11. Satan goes after both the weak and the strong

- a. Those who feel defeated
 - 1. The exhausted
 - 2. The discouraged
 - 3. The careless
- b. Those who are enjoying great success
 - 1. Arnold Toynbee the historian

“It is clear that the most dangerous period for a civilization is when it thinks it is safe and faces no further challenges

V. Overcoming Temptation

1. Know your area of vulnerability

- a. Hebrews 12:1

(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

- b. Know your personal weaknesses
 - 1. Gold...glory...girls
- c. Cancer and early detection

2. Know your Savior

- a. Hebrews 12:2-3

(2) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

3. Know your Bible

- a. Colossians 3:16

(16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

- b. Hebrews 4:12

(12) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- c. A defensive tool against Satan

- 1. Jesus quoted Scripture to Satan during His temptation

- d. John Piper

“It is almost certain that you will not be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit if you are not filled with the Word of God “

4. Never drop your guard

- a. A boxing term

- b. Self defense training

- 1. Taking Karate classes

- c. Yet self defense is more than fighting

- d. Talks with my kids

- 1. Stay out of bars at 2 a.m.

- 2. Never get drunk or high

- 3. Always observe the people around you

- 4. If you feel in danger...you probably are

- 5. Back away from rapidly intensifying situations

6. Don't hang around with kids with a record
7. Don't get sucked into road rage
8. Don't walk alone

e. Spiritual self defense

1. Stay away from porn sites, bars and clubs
2. Be careful with whom you spend time
3. Be on the alert for the first signs of temptation
 - a. Cancer and early detection
 - b. Nip it early
4. Have a friend you can trust
5. Have clear boundaries
6. Stay close to God

5. *Get real close to God*

- a. James 4:8

(8) Come near to God and he will come near to you.

6. *Confess your secret sin*

- a. The sin that only you and God know about
- b. James 4:8

(8) Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- c. Steps to victory
 1. Acknowledge sin
 2. Confess sin
 3. Forsake sin

7. *Humble yourself*

- a. James 4:9-10

(9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- b. The bald eagle down by the river
- c. The Hawk (#6525)

John Burroughs, the naturalist, says that when a hawk is attacked by crows or kingbirds, he does not make a counterattack, but soars higher and higher in ever widening circles until his tormentors leave him alone.

8. *Remember what Jesus endured*

- a. Jesus never asks us to endure temptations and tests he did not suffer
- b. The 40 days of temptation
 1. Colossal struggle between Jesus and the devil
 2. No human eyes saw it
 3. The angels watched in awe
- c. Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

- d. Jesus knows how powerful temptation can be

9. *Look for God's escape route*

- a. I Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

- b. The devil can't make you do anything

10. *Exercise the matchless strength available to you*

VI. Summary

A. He is stronger

1. Ephesians 6:10-13

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (13) Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

B. Something to remember

He is stronger.

Sin is broken.

He has saved us.

It is written.

Christ is risen.

Jesus you are Lord of all