



AVOIDING THE TEMPTATION TRAP

Matthew 6:13; 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Luke 15:1-3, ¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ **Then Jesus told them this parable:**

Parable 1) The Parable of the Lost Sheep - Sin tempts us to **wander** from God's leadership. When we do, God wants us to know the **wonder** of His rescuing, restorative love.

Parable 2) The Parable of the Lost Coin - Sin tempts us to **lose** treasured parts of ourselves in personal interactions. When we do, God wants us to know He **loves** us and will restore us.

Parable 3) The Parable of the Lost Son - Sin tempts us to **dishonor** God and our spiritual leaders. When we do, God wants us to know we can **depend** on Him to forgive us and work toward the fulfillment of our destiny.

James 1:2 (KJV), My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations.

James 1:12 (KJV), Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him

2 Samuel 11:1-5, ¹ In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. ² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and **the wife of Uriah** the Hittite." ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

Matthew 6:13, And lead us **NOT** into temptation, but **DELIVER** us from the evil one.

2 Samuel 11:26-27; Proverbs 17:17; 2 Samuel 12:11-15, 24-25; Acts 13:36; 1 Kings 1

Avoiding the Temptation Trap

Meditate daily in prayer upon:

1) Our **VULNERABLE** nature.

Galatians 5:17, For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in **conflict** with each other, **so that you are not to do whatever you want.**

“The flesh of a believer is no better than the flesh of an unbeliever.”

Deuteronomy 17:16-17; Galatians 5:19-21

2) Sin’s **VICIOUS** nature.

Proverbs 13:15 (NASB), Good understanding produces favor, But **the way** of the treacherous **is their own disaster.**

2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Corinthians 10:12

3) God’s recipe for **VICTORY.**

James 4:7-8, ⁷ **Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Come near to God** and he will come near to you. **Wash your hands**, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.

- ❖ **We come near to God through intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit.**
- ❖ **We wash our behavior through the water of God’s Word.**
- ❖ **We purify our hearts through Jesus’ blood.**

“If there should turn out, after all, to be such a thing as Divine forgiveness of sins, we may be sure it would be such a forgiveness that carries the divine condemnation of sin and destruction of sin at the heart of it.”

Scottish Pastor and Theologian John Denny, 1856-1917

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?