

**Introduction**

1. Last petition Lord's Prayer = ***lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil one.*** (**Show**)
  - a. What that is telling us is that each and every one of us is vulnerable to sin's power.
  - b. We have an enemy – Satan, and He is very, very evil.
  - c. Temptation is one of the most powerful weapons in his arsenal against us.
    - i. Temptation = **attractive**. We want it. We desire it. It appeals to us.
    - ii. Temptation = **deceptive**. I'll get away w/it. I won't get caught. No one will know.
    - iii. Temptation = **addictive**. I can stop. This won't get a hold on me. I can control this.
    - iv. Temptation = **destructive**. Family, reputation, trust, job, ministry—all damaged by sin.
2. One of most important commentaries on Matt. 6:3 is James 1:13-18. (**Show**)
  - a. It teaches us how we can overcome temptation. To overcome temptation must understand.
  - b. **Principle: To overcome temptation we must look at it clearly in all of its facets.**

**I. WE MUST LOOK INSIDE TO SEE THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION (vv. 13-14).****A. We Cannot Blame God (13)**

1. When frustrated, hurting or things not working out easy lash out at God.
2. That's case here. Quote marks indicate James taking words right fr. mouth. Our mouth?
  - a. **Here's the Hot:** God tests us. Allows hard situations. So if sin, His fault (Ge. 3:12).
  - b. James immediately reminds us impossible because of G's nature (v. 13b).
    - i. ***cannot be tempted by evil = untemptable (nothing in nature responds)***
    - ii. God permits evil, sees evil, present where evil, but untouched (sunbeam).
    - iii. Sunbeam shines on garbage dump & comes in contact, but never soiled by garbage.
  - c. **Conclusion** (v. 13c): God tests us to make us stronger, never tempts to sin.
3. If can't blame God who can we blame?

**B. We Cannot Blame Anyone Else (14)**

1. ***each one is tempted . . . . by his own desire; underline word own.***
  - a. Source of temptation in own hearts (Ps. 58:3; Ez. 18:4). We responsible.
  - b. Hard to admit. Human nature want make excuses.
2. In America this blame switching has almost been elevated level of indoor sport.
  - a. Pastor John MacArthur calls it ***victimization of America.***<sup>1</sup> Courts loaded.
  - b. But before ***Amen! That's right!*** What about our excuses? Have ever said?
    - i. ***It's the other person's fault. I couldn't help it. Every1 else is doing it.***
    - ii. ***It was just a mistake. Nobody's perfect. I didn't know it was wrong.***
    - iii. ***The devil got into me. I was pressured into it. It's the way I was raised.***
3. First step towards overcoming temptation is taking responsibility for it.
4. Whenever do wrong no one blame but you - not parents, spouse, friends, government.

**II. WE MUST LOOK AHEAD AND SEE THE STAGES OF TEMPTATION (14-15).****A. Sinful Desire Baited - We Are Lured**

<sup>1</sup> ***Victimism has gained so much influence that as far as society is concerned, there is practically no such thing as sin anymore. Anyone can escape the responsibility for his or her wrongdoings simply by claiming the status of a victim. No one is responsible for what he does anymore.*** John F. MacArthur, Jr. *The Vanishing Conscience*, (Dallas: Word Pub., 1994), p. 21.

1. **lured and enticed** = fishing terms (**lure out w/bait. to catch by bait**)
2. Tell about fishing w/Eddie behind Cobb Plant. Caught same catfish twice, not resist.
3. Satan is master at dangling things in front of us that bait us and draw us away.
  - a. **desire** is neutral word. God gives all good things enjoy. Fulfill desires.
  - b. But Satan bates our good desires w/wrong fulfillments.
    - i. Desire for food - But in land of plenty tempts us overeat or eat junk.
    - ii. Desire for sex - pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex
    - iii. Desire for achievement - dishonesty, selfish ambition to get ahead
    - iv. Desire for possessions - greedy and selfish life
      - (a) credit card = \$1000s credit line. Satan smart. Puts bait in back pocket.
      - (b) Don't have go looking for. Comes us - mail, TV, newspaper, school

#### B. Sinful Desire Conceived - We Indulge.

1. Sin is like conception (sperm/egg must unite for life; desire/temp. must unite sin)
2. Temptation itself is not sinful. It is when we indulge sinful impulses that we sin.
3. Temptations, of course, cannot be avoided, but because we cannot prevent the birds from flying over heads, there is no need that we should let them nest in hair.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Desire for food - consistently take 22<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> helping (eating becomes gluttony)
  - b. Desire for sex - willing partner (marital love becomes fornication/adultery)
  - c. Possessions - 2<sup>nd</sup> job, buy more, work more (making \$ live becomes living make \$)
  - d. Achievement - cheat get ahead, neglect loved ones (living others becomes for me)

#### C. Sinful Desire Is Matured - We Are Controlled

1. **Fully grown** = when becomes a habit/lifestyle. Consequences of sin is more sin.
  - a. Sin when indulged grows stronger, takes over lives and controls.
  - b. Classmates partied so much became alcoholics and couldn't stop drinking.
  - c. Some people indulged pornography so much sex addicts.
    - i. Most popular websites on internet are pornographic (millions xs. day).
    - ii. Friend said could not be in room w/pornography w/o looking.
  - d. Some people have so lived to make money that greed has skewed values.
    - i. Frank, **It would be better that wife died than pay nursing home bill.** (Fully grown)

#### D. Sinful Desire Is Finished - We Are Destroyed

1. **death** - Rom. 6:23 - A lifestyle of sin can take you to Hell.
2. But sin can kill you in more than 1 way (kills spiritual sensibility, joy, relationships)
3. What did J. Joplin, J. Hendrix, M. Monroe, J. Garland, Elvis, J. Belushi, K. Corbain, R. Phoenix all have in common. Immensely talented, didn't control lust, died overdose.
4. Show chart of how reproduction illustrates the working of sin. (**Show**)

Reproduction  
Sex  
Conception  
Birth  
Growth  
Death

Temptation  
Temptation  
Desire  
Sin  
Habitual Sin  
Death

<sup>2</sup> Martin Luther, "Martin Luther—The Early Years," *Christian History*, no. 34.

5. When is time to stop process? Point of desire. Sin is internal.
6. Since begins w/in, we need internal help. God has provided that help.

### III. WE MUST LOOK UP AND SEE THE SOLUTION TO TEMPTATION (vv. 16-18).

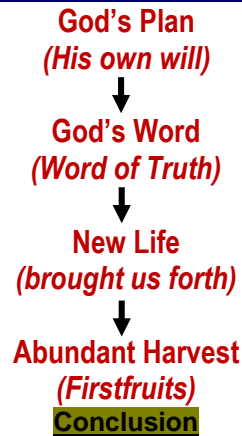
#### A. Trust In God's Goodness (16-17)

1. God wants to give us good gifts. He never changes and is always wanting best.
2. John Piper says that sin (lust for example) "gets its power by persuading me to believe that I will be more happy if I follow it. The power of all temptation is the prospect that it will make me happier."<sup>3</sup>

#### B. Make Use Of God's Gifts (18)

1. God's gifts.
  - a. His own will - God's Plan, Word of Truth - God's Word,
  - b. Brought us forth - God's New Life, Firstfruits - God's Abundant Harvest
2. Use chart to explain God's Gifts VS. Sin's Goal. (Show)

#### God's Love & His Plan for Us



1. Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God. No one sins out of duty. We sin because it holds out some promise of happiness. That promise enslaves us until we believe God is more to be desired than life itself.<sup>4</sup>
2. It ultimately boils down to a choice. Who do we trust? Who do we believe?
  - a. If we trust God, tho we are in pain, we will not take Satan's way out of our trouble.
  - b. We will stay in the Word, nurturing new life because we believe in God's plan.
  - c. We're waiting for His harvest. That's ultimately only way we will defeat temptation.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Putting Your Past Behind You, E. Lutzer, Here's Life, 1990, p. 54

<sup>4</sup> John Piper. <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/bc/8e/67/bc8e676ea17cc4b511d8438f7b5789a8.jpg>. Accessed 7/20/16.