

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 10, 2016

“Faith That Works: The Letter of James ~

Dealing with Temptation

James 1:12-18

Temptation = A strong urge or _____ to have or do something—especially something that is bad, wrong, or _____; a fundamental desire to engage in _____ urges for enjoyment, that threaten long-term _____; the act of tempting; enticement or allurements; to attract, _____, and pull.”

Temptation is an _____ force in our lives—an excitement of our natural, often God-given, _____ to want things, to enjoy things, to do things.

Temptation often takes us beyond _____, especially those set by God.

Instead of thinking of temptation as a negative thing, we need to think of it as an _____. “Temptation is not sin; it’s a call to battle.” (Erwin Lutzer)

THREE WARNINGS ABOUT TEMPTATION

Warning #1: Don’t be _____ by temptation.

“No one, when tempted, should say, ‘I am being tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one.” (James 1:13)

The first step that we can take if we want to be victorious over temptation is a step of _____.

- Temptation is _____.

There’s nothing wrong with temptation itself and it’s not a sin to be tempted—it’s a _____ part of our humanity. It’s how we _____ to it that gets us into trouble.

- Temptation is _____.

Temptation is _____. We are all vulnerable in different ways, and we all have our own personal temptations.

How ready are you yo face temptation when it comes into your life?

Warning #2: Don’t be _____ by temptation.

The next step in handling temptation is _____ where it comes from.

“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate.” And the woman, said, “The serpent deceived me and I ate.” (Genesis 3:12-13)

We argue that we behave the way we do because that’s how _____ made us. He created us with a certain _____ and so we can’t help doing what we do. In other words, it’s God’s _____!

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.” (James 1:13)

Unless we understand the real _____ of our temptation, we’ll continue to respond to it _____.

Satan certainly does tempt us—Scripture is clear on that. However, when it comes to temptation, Satan gets way too much _____.

The enemy may enjoy dragging us down—it may even be his mission—however, the reality is, there has to be something already _____ for his temptings to be effective.

Instead of blaming the devil, James says that each _____ is responsible for his or her own temptation, and _____ points out that temptation isn’t an event, but a _____.

“But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:14-15)

THE 4 STEP PROCESS OF TEMPTATION

Step #1: _____.

James tells us that “each one is tempted by his/her lust” or “own evil desire.” (James 1:14)

Scripture is clear that as fallen human beings the desire to sin is already _____ us. If it wasn’t, sin wouldn’t be _____ to us.

The magnet isn’t sin—the magnet is within us—it’s our _____.

Step #2: _____.

James tells us that because of the strength of our desires, we can be easily deceived and “dragged away and seduced” or “enticed.” (James 1:14)

The word ‘enticed’ is a fishing term =

The consequences of sin are real, however, we’re _____ to them by the _____ of our desire

Sin is nothing more than a _____. If we saw the _____ of our sin from the beginning, we'd make a different choice.

Step #3: _____.

James tells us that "after sin or desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin." (James 1:15)

The two elements (the bait and the desire) join together to give birth to _____.

Step #4: _____.

James tells us that "sin, when it's fully formed, brings forth death." (James 1:15)

Although sin often brings temporary _____, it always leads to death—even if it's not _____.

Just because God doesn't immediately judge our sin doesn't mean He won't. This is a sign of God's _____ and _____. However, if we continue to sin and do not respond to God's mercy by _____, death will follow.

James is telling us that the fulfilment of our lust brings about a death-like existence—we die to the things of _____. We die _____.

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." (Ps 51:12)

How intentional are you when it comes to being aware of this process of temptation in your life?

Warning #3: Don't be _____ by temptation.

The battlefield for resisting temptation and being drawn away from God is always in the _____. And every time we give into temptation, we're believing a _____.

"Do not be deceived, my beloved." (James 1:16)

The truth is, we can't take temptation _____, no matter how good it appears. We can't _____ it to ourselves.

We need to be _____, proactive, and _____ in dealing with temptation in our lives.

Once we see temptation for what it really is and the potential for destruction that it has for our lives, it's much _____ to deal with.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the

Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

"Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace...Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living." (Romans 6:14-18)

We have been set _____ by the power of _____ within us, and we no longer have to be _____ to sin.

"Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." (James 1:18)

"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." (2 Peter 1:3)

"No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

God promises that He will always provide a way of _____.

"So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you." (James 4:7-8)

The key is to fill our _____ with other things. Instead of simply resisting, we need to _____!

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)

How easily deceived are you by temptation?

"Temptation is not meant to make us fail; it is meant to confront us with a situation out of which we emerge stronger than we were. Temptation is not the penalty of humanity, it is the glory of humanity." (William Barclay)

The next time you find ourselves tempted where will you turn?

The next time you're tempted, how will you respond?