



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE MASTER CARPENTER

WEEK 2— Overcoming the Wilderness of Temptation

1. Read 1 John 2:16. What are the three things, according to this verse, that is of the world? What do you think these things are? Read Genesis 3:6. What were the three ways that Eve was attracted to the fruit? Are these the same three things that 1 John 2:16 said are part of the world? Read Matthew 4:3-10. What were the three ways that Satan tempted Jesus? Can these three temptations be the same things mentioned in 1 John 2:16? What can we conclude from what these three passages demonstrate about temptation?

Answer – In 1 John 2:16, the three things that come from the world are: 1. Cravings of sinful man (called the lust of the flesh), 2. The lust of the eyes, and 3. Boasting of what he has and does (called the pride of life). These three things are the three areas that our sinful nature compels us to give in to. The lust of the flesh are the desires that arise from our physical bodies. The lust of the eyes are the desires that come from things we see. The pride of life are the things that appeal to our pride. You see these three same things appealed to Eve when she was tempted, the fruit was good to eat (lust of the flesh), it was good to look upon (lust of the eyes) and it would make her wise and knowledgeable (pride of life). When you look at the temptation of Jesus, the same three temptations are present. Eat the bread because he was hungry (lust of the flesh). If you are the son of God, prove it by throwing yourself down (pride of life). Satan showed him all the kingdoms of the world (lust of the eyes). What we can conclude is that all of the ways that we are tempted will always come from one of these three areas so we can identify how we are being tempted.

2. Read James 1:13-15. What is the first stage of temptation according to this passage? When it says a person is “dragged away”, what do you think a person is dragged away from? In the account in Matthew 4:1-11 of Jesus’ temptation, how did Jesus defeat each temptation and what did he use? Read Psalm 119:11. Do you think Jesus did what this verse says in order to defeat temptation? So, when we are tempted, what is the first thing we should do in order to defeat the temptation?

Answer—The first stage of temptation is when we are dragged away and enticed. What we are dragged away from would be what God’s word says the truth about that action really is. For example, when I am tempted to lie, I first have to be dragged away from what God says is the

truth about lying and what the consequences would be if I tell a lie. That is why memorizing God's word is so important and why Jesus used God's word (the truth) to battle Satan's temptations. The way to defeat temptation is to stop the "dragging away" by thinking in our minds what God says is the truth about the action when are being tempted. If you do not control how you think about the temptation at this point, you will give in to the temptation.

3. Pastor Rick shared four facts that the Bible teaches about Satan, what are they? Is it accurate for us to say that every time we do something wrong that the devil made us do it? Why or why not? What does it mean to counterfeit something? Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. What does this passage say is Satan's main way of deceiving people? What is Satan's counterfeit for Christianity?

Answer— The four facts about Satan were: he was one of the angels God originally created until he rebelled against God; he constantly accuses God's people of their sin (Rev. 12:9,10); he is a master deceiver; and he is a counterfeiter of all that is good. It is inaccurate to say "the devil made me do it" because Satan is not omnipresent like God is, he can only be one place at one time. To counterfeit something is to take something that is real and make an imitation of it, the more like the original it is, the more people it will fool. The counterfeit to Christianity is religion, thinking that you can earn God's favor and a place in heaven by being good. Satan gives people a heavenly way to go to hell through religion, it is the ultimate con job.

4. Read Hebrews 4:15,16 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. Based on what these two verses say, what temptation are you going through that there is no way you can overcome? What sinful habit do you have that cannot be broken? The 1 Corinthians says that God will never allow anything to happen to you that you cannot withstand, so if you think you are not able to overcome it, what is happening in your mind?

Answer—There is nothing that we go through, no trial or temptation, that we cannot be victorious over if we submit ourselves to God's authority and power in our lives. If there is something we struggle with that we have convinced ourselves that we cannot overcome, we have allowed a lie of Satan to take root in our minds. Sometimes that happens because down deep inside we like doing whatever we are doing that we know is wrong, and so we lie to ourselves that we cannot overcome it. Until we want to overcome, we cannot, so maybe we need to ask God to change our desires.

5. Read 1 Timothy 1:12 and 1 Corinthians 4:2. Pastor Rick said that one of the characteristics that is vital for us to develop is faithfulness. What is faithfulness? Read Luke 16:10. What does this verse tell us about being trustworthy? What are some little ways in which we need to learn how to be faithful? What is one area in your life that you need to work on being faithful?

Answer—Faithfulness means to be dependable, people can count on you to do what you should do and what you say you will do. Being faithful to God is doing what God tells me I should do no matter how hard it is or if I feel like doing it. The small areas of life that we need to be faithful in are things like: Can I be trusted to keep my word? Am I honest? When I say I will do something, do I do it no matter what? Do I respect the time of other people by being somewhere on time? When I make a commitment, do I follow through until it is done? If we are not faithful in these smaller areas, we will not be faithful when it comes to doing more important things.