

Intro: Ec 1:9 *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”*

While that is true in almost every area of life, I think it is especially true in the area of temptation to sin.

The reality is that when we look at sin and temptation in the bible, the Devil regularly runs the same plays!

From the Garden of Eden, to the Life of Jesus, and all the way down to today in OUR lives...we see the same things!

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Lessons @ Temptation

1. Temptation OFTEN Follows Spiritual Victory.

Vs 1-2

- This pattern is seen so often in the bible that people have coined a term for it.
- **Elijah syndrome:** Remember after great victory on Mt Carmel over prophets of Baal
- Next thing we see is Elijah running for his life...hiding in cave, ready to die
- We expend great spiritual energy in some huge spiritual battle...win...but we are drained.
- That is what we see with Jesus. Baptism, Begins public ministry, Led by Spirit into desert...VULNERABLE

Applic: That is when you need to build some safeguards into your life to protect yourself.

Be aware, be prepared, be ready

2. Temptation is Allowed By God For Positive Spiritual Purposes.

Vs 3-13

There are a LOT of different reasons the bible gives us for why God allows temptation in our life. Not cover them all

- **Demonstrate our faith is real:** 1Pe 1:7 *These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*
- **Purify our faith:** Job 23:10 *But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*
- **Prepare our faith:** Here: What KIND of a Messiah will you be? How will you use power? Self/Others
 - What kind of Savior? Bread: Will you serve self or others?
 - What kind of Kingdom? This world or other?
 - What kind of person? Throw self off, use power to bring attention to self: Humble/Proud

Applic: Each one of these temptations can be seen in light of...WHO WILL YOU SERVE?

Here is part of what is happening. God is settling this issue right up front!

Who are you here to serve?

3. Three Specific Ways Temptation Comes.

- **Lust of the flesh:** What do I want/need physically? Not by bread alone! But by God
Applic: We have to solve that issue as well! Shows up with our giving! God I can't give 10%
- **Lust of Eyes:** What do I see that I want? Appeals to flesh All authority and splendor
Applic: What am I going to spend my life pursuing? God...things?
- **Pride of Life:** What kind of person will I be? Humble/Proud
Applic: Pursue applause of others...Seek please audience of one?
Prov and James: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

CONCL: There really is nothing new under the sun!

Devil is running the same playbook today he has forever!

Gen 3:6 "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

Reflections:

- Know when you are vulnerable
- Understand what God is doing
- Be ready for the attack (where it is most likely to come)
- Arm yourself with the truth! Memorize Scripture: That's what Jesus did
Specific scripture for specific attacks
Generic for overall

"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." 1 Co 10:13