

JAMES: SHOE LEATHER GOSPEL
Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Bible Study- Week 3
“Faith and Temptation” James 1: 13-18
Dr. Josh Wilson

Review of Past Two Weeks:

1. James, the half -brother of Jesus, wrote this letter from Jerusalem where he lived and ministered between 44-60AD to J_____ Christians who had been scattered outside of Palestine because of persecution, suffering, and opposition for their faith in and following of Jesus Christ.
2. The letter of James is all about how our faith in Jesus is practically applied and demonstrated in all areas of our lives. In this way, it is the “shoe leather Gospel.”
3. James opens the letter by addressing the p_____ and place of trials within the Christian’s life. God allows trials in our lives to serve His plans and purposes in our lives, designed to build us up in faith and perseverance so we can become mature and complete in Christ.
4. The key to being able to “count it all joy” as James commands in the midst of the trial is dependent upon the p_____ we choose look at our trial from. Our trial will either be an obstacle to our faith or opportunity to grow in faith.

In verses 13-18, James makes a shift to deal with the issue of how our faith is proven in the midst of times of temptation in our lives as Christians.

Foundational Truths Related to Verses 13-18:

1. For every desire and need God has given to us, He has also provided a r_____ way of meeting that need within His plan and design for our lives.
Ex. Food and Shelter- God’s Plan- Work, earn a living, and provide for the necessities of life
Companionship/Relationship: God’s Plan for Marriage and Friendships
Sexual Desire: God’s Plan for Marriage
2. As sinners, we twist and distort God’s plan to meet these desires by giving in to temptation and fulfilling a need we have in a way that is o_____ of God’s design and plan.
“A temptation is an opportunity to accomplish a good thing in a bad way, out of the will of God.”
- Warren Wiersbe
Ex. Passing a Test.....but cheating
Eating....but stealing the food
3. Just as no person can escape from facing trials in this life...In the same way, no person can escape facing the temptation to sin either. *“but each person is tempted”(v.14)*- universal
BUT, a Christian’s faith will be revealed as real or not by how we respond to the temptation to sin as the consistent pattern of our lives.
*“Sometimes the trials are testings on the **outside**, and sometimes they are temptations on the **inside**. “*

Three Things James Teaches Concerning Temptations, Faith, and Sin:

1. R_____ : We must learn to take ownership of our sin.
- It is common for all of us to want to b_____ someone or something else not only for the temptation itself but also for the reasons we give into it. Ex. Adam and Eve in Garden of Eden

“When the mind has sinned and removed itself far from virtue, it lays blame on divine causes.”

- Philo of Alexandria

“The foolishness of man subverts his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.” Prov.19:3

James says when we give into temptation and sin, we can't blame:

1. **G** _____

James speaks a strong word against the idea of

“Let no one say when he is tempted...” The idea is “Let no person say to himself, or rationalize, or justify to himself thinking “God is tempting me.” Strong language to say no one should ever say that God is even indirectly responsible for temptation to evil.

“Thou knowest Thou has formed me with passions wild and strong, and listening to their witching voice has often led me wrong.” Robert Burns

- Some ancient rabbis taught was called yetzher ha'ra: “evil impulse”; considered to be part of man's original created nature.. That God created us with evil desires.
- One rabbinical saying: “God said, ‘It repents me that I created the veil tendency in man; had I not done so, he would not have rebelled against me. I created the evil tendency; I created the law as a means of healing...God placed the good tendency on a man's right hand, and the evil on his left.”

2. **S** _____: “The devil made me do it”

- There is no mention of the devil or Satan within these verses. Satan tempts but he doesn't force us to sin...We choose to sin willingly.

3. **Other P** _____: Gen. 3: 12-13

4. **C** _____: stress in life, spouse, children; work schedule; upbringing

Instead, James says, “But each one is tempted when they are dragged away **by their own evil desire** and enticed.” “The problem is not a tempter from without, but from a traitor from within.”

2. **R** _____ **the process of temptation and sin in our lives (v.14-15)**

- We think of sin as a single act, but God sees it as a process that takes place within our minds and hearts.

The “Anatomy of Sin”:

Stage #1: D _____: **We are dragged away and enticed by our flesh.**

Ill. Baits Used for Fishing”Never toy with the devil's bait.”

Our own lusts drag us towards things that appeal to our fleshly desire. Sin is attractive and pleasurable for awhile.

Ill. Rat Trap

Stage #2: D _____: **We rationalize our sin.**

“It's just one little sin”. “No one else will know”. “God will forgive me”. “I have needs that need to be met”. Battlefield is the mind- must be transformed by the truth of the Word.

Stage #3: D _____: **We begin to make plans to fulfill or flee lust.**

Stage #4: D _____ : We commit the sin.

III. Picture of woman giving birth

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

Galatians 6: 7-8

3. R _____ on the nature of God’s character. (v.17)

- One of Satan’s strategies is to cause us to question the goodness of God. “God is withholding something good from me!”
- From temptation to execution, God is not responsible. His character is incompatible with evil or sin.**BUT...**
- God is responsible for every good thing/every perfect gift coming from above. Reflect on the goodness of God.

Negative example: DAVID

What is David had before committing adultery with Bathsheba? God had been good to David, yet David forgot God’s goodness and took the bait.

“Then Nathan said to David: *‘You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes?’*

2 Samuel 12: 7-9

Positive Example: JOSEPH.

“But he refused. ‘With me in charge, he told her, ‘my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?’ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.” - Genesis 39: 8-10

4. R _____ Yourself DAILY for Battle!

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

- Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily
“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.” Galatians 5: 16-17
- Understand the bait Satan uses to tempt you personally with most often.
- Avoid people, places, and circumstances where temptation will most likely occur.
Ex. The Gossip. The Drunkard. The Sexual Immoral.
- Memorize the Word of God and use it as a weapon in moments of weakness and temptation
Ex. Jesus being tempted in the wilderness
- Sometimes, you just got to FLEE!
The earlier in the process of temptation we resist, the greater we will avoid.
The longer we delay in resisting, the more actual the sin becomes.