

How to Overcome Temptation – November 16 & 17, 2019

Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Daniel 3

- What did King Nebuchadnezzar create (1)? Summarize all that happened when the statue was revealed (2-7). Describe the astrologers' denouncement of the Jews exiled in Babylon (8-12). Whom in particular did they target (12)? Why do you think they did this? How did the King respond to this news (13-15)?
- Summarize the three men's response to Nebuchadnezzar (16-18). Meditate on verse 18. How do you think the men were able to maintain a "resist temptation no matter what" posture? Does this remind you of anything in your own life? How is God helping you? Listen for his voice of encouragement now. What is he speaking?
- Describe the consequence of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's refusal to worship the image (19-23). What miracle then happened (24-27)? How did Nebuchadnezzar respond (28-30)? This story ends well for the three faithful men, but what about acts of resistance that don't? Speak to the Lord about this.

Day Two: Matthew 4:1-11

- Set the scene of this text (1). Who are the three players (1)? How did Jesus feel after 40 days of fasting (2)? What was the first thing Satan said to him (3)? Summarize Jesus' response (4). What do you think made it possible for him to pass this "test"?
- Describe the second encounter (5-7). Imagine this scene in your mind's eye. What can you see from this vantage point? Note it's the second time Satan begins by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." Why do you think he does this? When you're repeatedly tempted in the same way or over the same matter, how can you respond in faith? Pray for grace to walk this out.
- Where did Satan next take Jesus (8)? What did he offer (9)? What was different about Jesus' response this time (10)? What happened next (11)? How do you think Jesus felt at this point? When a season of intense temptation ends, how do you feel? Victorious? Vulnerable? Invite the Lord into this reflection.

Day Three: Matthew 19:16-30

- Summarize the exchange the man had with Jesus (16-22). Which parts jump out at you? Why? Re-read verse 22. Play the movie of his decision to succumb to the temptation of wealth. "He went away sad," but what else do you think happened to him?
- What did Jesus then say about the rich and the Kingdom of God (23-24)? Why do you think it's next to impossible for the rich to inherit the Kingdom? Wealth can create a sense of strength that dulls our need for God and his protection. What else causes you to feel this way, and what sorts of temptations tend to follow?
- How did the disciples feel about Jesus' words, and what did they ask him (25)? What reassurance did he offer (26)? Describe Peter's retort (27). What did Jesus say about the age to come (28-30)? Juxtapose Jesus' message with Satan's: "enjoy now, pay later." Obeying God is costly, but in doing so we can experience more and more of his kingdom. How is that true in your life?

Day Four: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- What story does Paul want to tell his readers (1)? What experiences of the ancient Israelites does he liken to baptism and communion (1-4)? What was the state of their relationship with God (5)? What are we to glean from their story (6)? What negative

examples, both in the Bible and in the world today, help you to overcome temptation? What about positive examples?

- What temptations did the Israelites' succumb to (7-10)? Which ones are a struggle for you? Pray now for God to deliver you from evil, be it the Devil's schemes, your heart's inclinations, etc.
- What is one reason why the story of the Israelites was recorded (11)? What should we never put past ourselves (12)? Ask God to speak into those areas of your life where you're standing firm. What do you hear? What does Paul then say about temptation and how to overcome it (13)? Bring to mind your biggest temptation. What "way out" does God offer to you?

Day Five: James 1:2-18

- What should we consider "pure joy" (2)? Why (3)? What does perseverance produce in us (4, 12)? How do we get wisdom (5-6)? What interferes with the pursuit of it (6-8)?
- What upside-down view does James have of status (9-11)? What "humble circumstances" exist in your own life? How should we view temptation (13-15)? Which point here most challenges you? Why? What does it inspire you to do in order to resist temptation?
- What admonition does James then give (16)? Where do "good and perfect" gifts come from (17)? How does James describe God (17)? What about his description of our new life in Christ (18)? How might regularly giving thanks for "every good and perfect gift" from the Lord help you to overcome temptation? In both word and deed, what is God asking you to teach others about temptation and how to resist it? Pray you'd be obedient to this call.