

# Temptation & Marriage

Outline – February 16, 2025

Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

## There Is One Thing We All Have In Common

### I. All of us will experience temptation

- A. Some will be “minor”
- B. Some will be our greatest regret
- C. The reason it will be our greatest regret
  - 1. It destroyed our family
  - 2. It derailed our future
  - 3. It depleted our faith
- D. Temptation baits us, then shames us
- E. When it comes to temptation there is always more at stake than what we think

### II. One of the most dangerous & damaging temptations is infidelity/immorality

- A. Most “emergency sessions” are about infidelity
- B. The reality is that one’s family, future, & faith are about to be ruined & radically changed
- C. Why? Because they did not pause & realize there is more at stake than the moment
- D. This is why the Bible teaches infidelity is a problem/sin unto itself, and it impacts you and everyone you love

### III. What to do (First)

- A. Recognize temptation comes to you throughout your marriage
  - 1. Pause - remember what’s at stake
  - 2. Have boundaries & guardrails
  - 3. Recognize the correlation between temptation & your confidence in God

- 4. Recognize God has put consequences into every decision we make

### IV. The template of temptation

- A. When will it come?
  - 1. At any time
  - 2. Often after a spiritual victory, break through, or experience with God
  - 3. After a decision for the Lord
  - 4. When tired, exhausted, depleted, and your appetite is starving
- B. Who is behind it?
  - 1. Satan wants to see you fail
  - 2. He knows your weakness
- C. Why does this happen?
  - 1. To steal, kill, & destroy

### V. An analysis of Jesus’ temptation & ours

- A. “Turn stones into bread”
  - 1. Meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way
  - 2. Make your power all about you
  - 3. Take matters into your own hands
  - 4. Only care about the moment & your appetite
  - 5. Having the confidence God provides & there are more things important than the moment
- B. 6 primary temptations that occur that lead to infidelity
  - 1. Allow themselves to get emotionally connected
  - 2. Allow themselves to get addicted to lust
  - 3. Put themselves in situations they known can be a problem

4. Become desensitized, no conviction, no conscience, “no big fear”
  5. They see it as sport
  6. They see it as revenge
- C. The next temptation: using God for their own purpose & gain
1. Doing things you know are wrong, expecting God to bail you out
  2. God is not mocked
  3. The law of sowing & reaping
- D. The 3rd temptation: take a short cut
1. Do the right thing the wrong way
  2. Temptation: worship me
  3. “All these Kingdoms I will give you”
  4. Satan is saying:
    - a. Here is a shortcut
    - b. No cross
    - c. No pain
    - d. No breaking your Mom’s heart
    - e. No death
  5. Had Jesus fallen to temptation
    - a. No hope for us
    - b. No Eternal Life
- E. Every temptation you have is in one of those categories
- F. Always more at stake than we realize

**VI. What was at stake at the temptation of Jesus?**

- A. Your Eternal future
- B. Jesus had to be sinless to be your substitute and take your place

**VII. What’s at stake when we fall to temptation?**

- A. Our faith
  1. Every time we fall, our conscious pulls away from God

2. Over time many will leave God
3. Many then become critical of
  - a. God
  - b. The Bible
  - c. God’s people
4. Sin breaks our confidence in God
5. All of us are a series of failed temptations away from leaving God

**VIII. What’s the next thing to do to protect from temptation?**

- A. Recognize what’s at stake
  1. Family
  2. Future
  3. Faith
- B. Declare to the temptation
  1. “You will not take my family”
  2. “You will not take my future”
  3. “You will not take my faith”
- C. Invest in your spouse
  1. Turn toward them instead of turning away (connect with them)
  2. Know them fully, be transparent
  3. Admire, accept, appreciate, acknowledge, (give) affection
  4. Solve problems, avoid drama
  5. Overcome gridlock
  6. Have common goals
  7. Love with all 4 loves

**Fill Your Spouse's Emotional Tank  
When A Person Is Full, Little Can Tempt Them  
When You Are Empty, Garbage Looks Good**