

Weathering the Storm: Defeating Temptation

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 1, 2015

[Luke 4:1-15](#)

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. 14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Facts about temptation:

- ALL OF US ARE TEMPTED

[Romans 7:15](#)

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

- TEMPTATION IS NOT SIN - SURRENDERING TO IT IS

[1 Corinthians 10:13](#)

13 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.

We can overcome temptation if we...

1. ADMIT WE ARE VULNERABLE TO IT

Example: David & Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 & 12)

We can overcome temptation if we...

2. REALIZE THE BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL

[1 Peter 5:8-9](#)

8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith,

[Ephesians 6:12](#) ... our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

[James 4:7](#) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We can overcome temptation if we...

3. STEER CLEAR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT TEMPT US

[1 Corinthians 15:33](#)

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

We can overcome temptation if we...

4. FOCUS ON GOD (AND HIS WORD), NOT THE TEMPTATION

[2 Timothy 3:16](#) All Scripture is God-breathed...

[2 Corinthians 10:5](#)

... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

[Philippians 4:8](#)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.