

Temptation
Proverbs 7
October 4, 2015

Introduction

Ever since man fell in sin, we all have faced temptation in every area of our life. To be clear, temptation itself is not sin. It leads to sin if we act on it. It is like a cross road that we reach. To say yes leads to sin and death, and to say no leads to righteousness and life. James says that temptation happens because of desire. As we studied Proverbs **6:20-35**, we noted that desires can be either good or evil. If we cultivate good desires, then we will show others that Christ lives in us. If we encounter temptation and we do evil, then it is because we have been cultivating evil desires.

Here Solomon is giving his son (and us) a lesson about temptation. He uses a specific sin of adultery to give us a picture of the process that we encounter while being tempted. Solomon does this so we can recognize and avoid temptation.

I. Fighting Against Temptation (1-5)

- Great advice
 - Once more Solomon advises his son to listen to his command
 - Not just listen, but to actively pursue the parents' teaching (God's law) into his life
 - Nothing has changed in Solomon's lessons
 - Learn God's words and obey it
- ...If you do it
 - Note the commands
 - Keep
 - Guard
 - Bind
 - Write
 - We are responsible for keeping God's word
 - We are to bind them on our fingers
 - Meaning to apply God's words to our behavior
 - We are to write them on our hearts
 - We are to think, study, and apply God's words to our life
 - It is internal
 - Guard God's word as you guard the apple of your eye
 - Apple of the eye = pupil (the black circle of your eye)
 - Most sensitive part of the body
 - Remember God's word and protect it like you are protecting your eye
 - Wisdom as your sister
 - Sister = wife (term of endearment)
 - Treat wisdom as if you are married to it

II. For Example (6-23)

- Young fool
 - Solomon tells his son what he saw—it is a picture comparison
 - Very clear picture of temptation
 - He sees a young man who lacks judgment (short on brains)
 - He leaves his group
 - Late at night
 - He walks around, not paying attention to where he is going
 - He is at the wrong place at the wrong time
- The adulteress
 - She is on the street corner, looking for any fool

- She is hunting
- She is there for evil purposes
- She is outside of her house (at street corner)
 - Solomon contrasts her to Lady Wisdom

Proverbs 1:20-21 *Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:*

- Lady Wisdom cries out in public
- This lady is at corners, lurking for ambush
- Her seduction
 - Her appearance
 - Dressed like a prostitute (dressed to kill)
 - She is making herself look attractive as possible
 - Her actions
 - She comes out to meet him
 - She kisses—very shocking and bold
 - Her words
 - I fulfilled my vows
 - Religious obligations has been fulfilled
 - From **Lev 7:1-11**
 - She is telling this youth that she is very religious
 - Justification of sin
 - I came to meet you
 - She is lying
 - She is waiting for any poor fool to come her way
 - Bed and perfume
 - Sensual and exotic appeal
 - My husband is not at home
 - He is not coming back for some time (two or more weeks)
 - He is away (took large amounts of money with him)
- The trap sprung
 - The young man was not lured in by her looks or actions
 - He was lured in by her talk
- Adultery as an example for temptation
 - What is temptation?

Genesis 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.*

1 John 2:16 *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

- Lust of the eyes
 - Adulteress' clothing
- Lust of the flesh
 - Her kiss
 - Her offer
- Pride of life
 - Smooth words
- Temptation does not hide itself

III. Further Thoughts on Temptation (24-27)

- Smooth words
 - For Solomon, the woman's smooth words were the real danger
 - It was what convinced the young man
 - It is the same style that convinced Eve
 - Listening to deception, we deceive ourselves

- **1 John 1:8a** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.*
 - We are not sinning
 - We are having fun
 - Self-justification

- Guard your heart
 - It starts in your heart
 - Mind, thoughts, imaginations
 - Jesus says that all evil comes from the heart/mind (**Mark 7:14-15**)
 - How to guard our heart?
 - By the word of God—reading, studying, and applying it daily
 - It is our shield and sword

- Avoid being part of temptation
 - This young man was unguarded and stupidly went past where the adulteress was
 - Avoid areas you know you are weak in
 - Avoid going down danger zones
 - Think about Adam and Eve
 - Bible doesn't say, but they probably went to the tree often—otherwise how would Satan tempt them there?
 - Recognize your weakness and look around you
 - Decide now before it starts that you will avoid it
 - You must be aware of what is going around you at all times

- Final Warning
 - To give into temptation is to die

James 1:14-15 *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

- Temptation does not come from God but from you

James 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

- All people have fallen into temptation
 - We must not think we are immune to it
 - Consider Solomon, the wisest man on earth, committing gross sins
 - If it happens to him, then it can happen to us
- Solomon's warning is to listen to God and do it
- When we do it, we will live
- To ignore God is to die