

The Temptations of Sons

We have picked up the idea from the religious teachings we've received that temptation is all about getting us to commit sin. We take this on-board and see our whole lives as a battle not to sin. Why? So we don't lose our salvation. So we don't upset God.

The Christian life becomes one of struggle against sin because we are taught to focus on the 'flesh' and 'killing' it out of fear of what it can do to us. This mindset is enhanced by the religious nature of our teachings which often focusses on the 10 Commandments, leading us into legalism. Legalism is all about rules and regulations, about doing the right thing.

So much for the freedom and abundant life Jesus came to give us.

Jesus stood against the religious leaders of his day as they epitomised a religious system which stifled the Jews, putting burdens on them that they couldn't carry.¹ Not only that but these same leaders prevented the god-loving people from entering what Father had for them in life.² Jesus came to release us from this burden of false religion and bring us into the liberty of submission to him.³

Instead of fear, we need to see temptation as an attack of the enemy for the purpose of destroying us. At the root level, it's not about the battle of sin v righteousness – it's a battle for which side you belong to. The enemy is Satan⁴ and his plan is to destroy the work of salvation in people's lives so they all move to his camp. He's looking to win everyone over, out of Father's family onto his team. We think it's about keeping our conscience clear, but this plays into the enemy's hands because he is The Devil and he's a slanderer⁵.

This process of camp-transfer is achieved by deception in most cases. He deceives people to believe his lies about everything, rather than the truth and reality that Jesus brings. Deception is the easy way to recruit – if they don't believe the truth in the first place, he's got them. Blinding people's understanding is effective in the religious system also. If people do believe the truth about the reality of life – of light and dark – Satan then brings people into the deceptions of religion. Diverting people from the whole truth into partial truth is a ploy that augers to eventually move people into focussing on 'works' or position or the veneration of living or deceased persons, rather than the 'truth' himself.

All this works successfully because people operate in the natural rather than the spiritual. The 'flesh', or base nature of a person, is where this deception functions, because the truth is shielded from them.

Those who are spiritual are not immune to deception either. The easy thing for Satan here is to divert them into false spirituality, such as the New Age movement or Satanism. He is a spiritual being, and deception is his game plan.⁶

If deception doesn't work, the enemy's other technique is temptation. He tempts us way from the truth into lies by using untruths and lies. He is the father of lies.⁷ Temptation works on our 'flesh' as this is where our weaknesses are.

1 – Matthew 23:4

2 – Matthew 23:13

3 – Matthew 11:28-30

4 – 'Satan' means 'adversary'

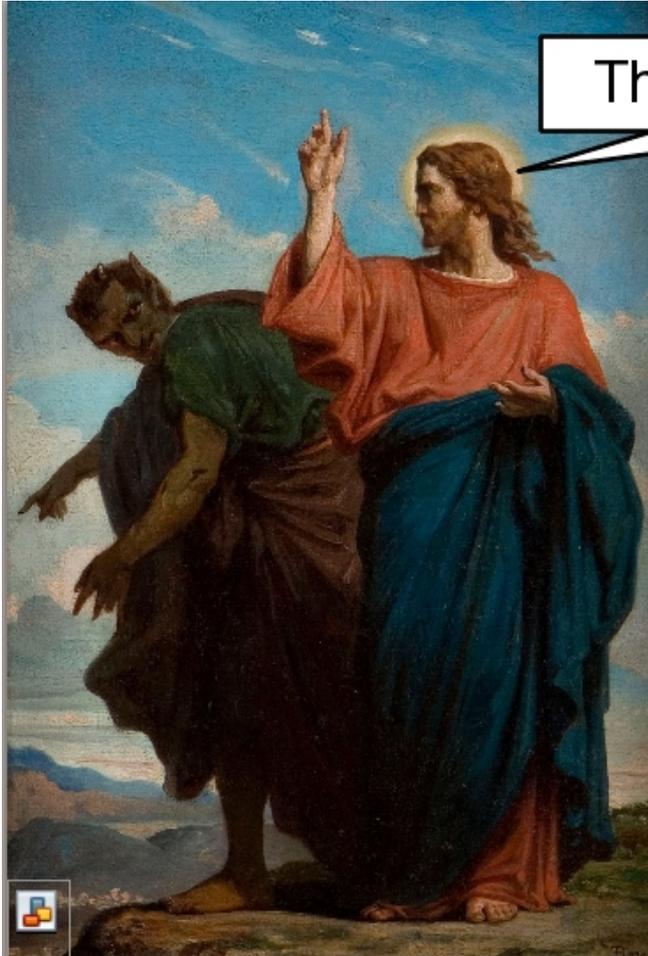
5 – 'Devil' means 'slanderer'

6 – Revelation 12:9

7 – John 8:44

- Temptations work on a person's weaknesses
- Temptations are tailored to where a person is at.

Jesus' temptations were about who he was – his identity. This was to derail him from his main work of being the messiah. If that could be destroyed, so could his Kingdom assignment. Jesus operated out of who he was and he defeated the enemy's questions with what he knew was the truth – truth that was unshakeable. He didn't quote scripture because it's God's written word, he spoke it because it was TRUTH to him. The enemy cannot move a person standing on absolute truth.



The truth I believe is...

As Sons, this is our attitude to temptation and any lie of the enemy - the same as Jesus'.

So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 AMP)

As sons, we will be tempted in all areas – especially where there is weakness. But, once we operate as sons, we must stand firmly on TRUTH, rise to who we are and be sold-out on what we are doing for the Kingdom. This is where we'll be tempted to be derailed. SO WATCH OUT.

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