

Lead Us Not into Temptation

LESSON 7: A SHARED CHALLENGE

There is a concept in the world, that once you come to faith in Jesus Christ, your world is perfect. Life is good and without conflict. This is not what the Bible teaches. When we profess the Lord's prayer and acknowledge God as our Father and bow to his sovereignty, we sign up for a battle. Part of that battle is temptation. The root of the word "temptation" is from the Middle English word temptacioun which means "testing or enticement to sin". The Latin root temptare means "to feel, test, attempt, make an assault on, attack". Our humanity exposes us to a life of temptation to sin, but grasping the hand of our loving Father helps us to overcome temptation.

1. According to Matthew 4:1-11, who was tempted and by whom? How did he resist the temptation? Was it difficult for him?

2. What does Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16 say about temptation? Does our Great High Priest understand our weaknesses? See Matthew 26:41.

3. Read James 1:13-15. What leads us into temptation?

4. In Luke 22:31-34, what do you learn about Peter's temptation? Read Luke 22:39-40,45-46, what helps us resist temptation? Is there an area in your life that continually plagues you with temptation? Write out a prayer asking your Father to help you resist it.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. How do these verses give you hope?

6. What part do we play in resisting the flesh according to Romans 13:12-14? What does clothing ourselves with Jesus Christ look like in your life?

APPLICATION: There is a moment-to-moment battle taking place between our flesh and the kingdom of God. Victory in this battle happens when we acknowledge our humanity and reach up and grasp the hand of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” What stronghold needs breaking down in your life? Write a prayer claiming these verses.

PRAYER: Loving Father, you desire for each of us to be holy as you are holy. This seems impossible in our own strength. Quicken to us a warning when our flesh begins to overcome us. Help us to take every thought and make it obedient to Jesus Christ. We praise you for the words of Philippians 4:13 which say, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength”. You Father are our strength and fortress. Thank you for Jesus, our Great High Priest. Amen.