

9-7-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: Unmasked. Pt-4

Purpose: Expose how satan uses temptation to cause us to sin and provoke people to resist the tempter's trap.

Truth for Today: Satan tempts us to sin against God so we will experience painful consequences.

Topic: Temptation, Obedience, Disobedience, Satan, Devil, Demons, Eve,

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:5

Series title: Unmasked

Series purp.: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.

Unmasked, Pt-4

I. Introduction

- A. [1 Thes. 3:5 (NLT)]...I sent Timothy to find out whether your **faith was still strong**. I was afraid that **the tempter had gotten the best of you** and that our work had been useless.] Saying yes to temptation causes us to backslide and pulls us away from God.
- B. Satan is the tempter. Def temptation: the enticement to do evil or wrong. Pic mouse cheese If we say yes to temptation, painful consequences will follow. Beginning with Eve, Satan also successfully tempted Cain, Abraham, and David to sin. Jesus was "tested in every way as we are, yet without sin" ⁴ With the Holy Spirit's help we can recognize and say no to temptation and stay on the narrow path to life.
- C. Series: Unmasked pt-4. We're exposing the schemes of the devil so we can resist them. Today, (1) We'll see how satan used temptation to deceive Eve, (2) Practical ways to avoid the tempter's trap.

II. How does temptation work?

- A. [James 1:14–15 (NLT)]...Temptation comes from **our own desires, which entice us** (def.: *tempt, dangle cheese in front of us*) **and drag us away**. 15 These **desires give birth to sinful actions**. And **when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.**
 1. Video mouse cheese Mr. Mouse saw the cheese, and ignored the trap. Traps don't work without the right bait and satan knows the right bait to tempt us.
- B. [Ge. 3:1–23 (NLT)] The serpent was the **shrewdest (ESV crafty)** of all the wild animals... Pic serpent he asked the woman, "**Did God really say** you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees..."² "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden..."³ "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said...if you do, you will die.'" ⁴ "**You won't die!**"...⁵ "God knows that your eyes will be opened...and **you will be like God**, knowing both good and evil." ⁶ ...**She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom**...So she took ...the fruit and **ate it**... ¹³ Then the LORD God asked... "What have you done?" "**The serpent deceived me**..."²³ So the LORD **God banished them from the Garden** of Eden...] pain and death came to us all.
 1. Satan's strategy #1: Satan makes us question and doubt God's Word, "Did God really say" ; "You won't die" e.g., maybe we did evolve from apes, why can't 2 men marry each other if they're in love. It's ok to choose my gender, etc. The real

issue is God's Word the ultimate authority between right and wrong? Will we say yes to God and no to temptation or say no to God and yes to feelings and reason. [John 8:44 (ESV)]...the devil...he is a liar...

2. Satan's strategy #2: Satan causes us to believe God is holding back something good from us. "*God knows that your eyes will be opened*" e.g. have an affair-happy
3. Satan's strategy #3: Satan appeals to our desires, not God's Word to influence our choice. "*She saw that the tree was beautiful*" Temptation disguises itself as something good and we rationalize our disobedience to God's Word. Pic dead mouse The cheese isn't worth the cost and pain. Sin has consequences. [Romans 6:23 (ESV)] For the wages of sin is death...

III. Practical ways we overcome temptation.

- A. We overcome temptation with The Word of God. [Mt. 4:1-4 (NLT)] Jesus was led... into the wilderness to be **tempted there by the devil**.²...he fasted and became very hungry.³ **During that time the devil came** and said... "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of **bread**."⁴ Jesus told him, "**No! The Scriptures say**, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Duet.8:3 [Eph. 6:11-17 (NLT)]...stand firm against all **strategies of the devil**... 17...take the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying**... E.g., road rage or 'bless those curse you'
- B. We overcome temptation with prayer. The Lord's Prayer, [Mt. 6:13 (NLT)] **don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one.** Every day and as needed we call on God to help us overcome areas in which we're tempted. E.g. girl beach
- C. We overcome temptation by taking the way out. [1 Cor. 10:13 (NLT)]...God...will not allow the **temptation** to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a **way out** so that you can endure.] e.g., gambling problem, delete app.
- D. We overcome temptation by staying away from tempting situations and getting out if you're there. E.g., Hamburgers at Hooters
- E. We overcome temptation with an offensive strategy, i.e. Go to God's gym every day for 'spiritual weightlifting'. [Gal. 6:7-8 (NIV)]...A man reaps what he sows. (NCV)⁸ If they plant to **satisfy their sinful selves**, their sinful selves will bring them ruin. But if they **plant to please the Spirit**, they will receive eternal life... In God's gym we have a daily quiet time with God reading God's Word and praying.

IV. Response: Prayer, RU being tempted? Strength to recognize and resist temptation.

- A. Souls: Yielding to temptation is not the path to happiness. Having a relationship with God and following His ways is. You can start right now. Problem- Solution-Decision

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 27). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

2. Ross, A. P. (1985). [Genesis](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 32). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
3. Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 26). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
4. Lanier, D. (2003). [Temptation](#). In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 1568). Holman Bible Publishers.

VI. Supplemental Information

- A. Jesus is our example to overcome the tempter's snare
- B. Picture: Fish hook with bait when I was 14 years old
- C. [Rev. 20:2 (ESV)...he seized the dragon, that **ancient serpent...the devil...**]
- D. atan tempted her with physical satisfaction '**good for food**', aesthetic beauty '**pleasing to the eye**', and the potential for gaining '**wisdom**'. He enticed Eve to disobey God once she believed there would be no punishment.²
- E. He lied to Eve and said she could sin without any consequences.²
- F. [Mt. 4:1–10 (NLT) Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted...by the devil**. 2 For 40 days and 40 nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time **the devil...**said to him, "**If you are the Son of God**, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus told him, "**No! The Scriptures say**, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
 1. Satan tempts us at our weakest moment; Jesus was hungry, e.g., bills are due, vacation is coming, and you're broke. A friend suggests a way to steal from work.
- G. [Vs 5 **Then the devil took him to the...highest point of the Temple**, 6 and said, "**If you are the Son of God, jump off!** For the **Scriptures say**, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" 7 Jesus responded, "**The Scriptures also say**, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" 8 Next **the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**. 9 "**I will give it all to you,**" he said, "**if you will kneel down and worship me.**" 10 "**Get out of here, Satan,**" Jesus told him. "For **the Scriptures say**, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" 13 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him **until the next opportunity** came.]
 1. Satan is relentless. He keeps coming after us. We must keep resisting! In each temptation, Jesus overcame the tempter's trap by quoting the truth of God's Word
 2. Satan's Temptations of Eve and of Jesus were similar: (1) Satan appealed to their physical desires: To Eve, "You may eat of any tree" (3:1). To Jesus he said, "You may eat by changing stones to bread" (4:3). (2) Satan offered personal benefit, he told Eve you will not die (3:4) and told Jesus, "You will not hurt Your foot" (4:6). (3) He offered power and glory. He told Eve, "You will be like God" (3:5). And told Jesus, "You will have all the world's kingdoms" (4:8–9).¹
- H. Temptation only works if we let feelings and reason supersede God's Word.

- I. [2 Cor. 11:3 (NCV) But I am afraid that your minds will be led away from your true and pure following of Christ just as **Eve was tricked** (*ESV deceived*) **by the snake with his evil ways.**]

