

James 1:13-16
“Help Me To Avoid That”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 1:13-16)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Help Me To Avoid That”**

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- With finished off the section on *trials*...
 - And today we come to *temptations*!
- One's from God (*trials*) & ones from Satan (*temptations*).

LET'S START...

- By looking at (Matt. 6:13) NLT
 - Jesus taught the disciples to pray for protection...
 - Against *temptations*!

WHY?

BECAUSE THE DEVIL IS ROAMING AROUND...

- **Looking to wreck** lives because he hates humanity!
 - (1 Peter 5:8) NLT

NOW... (Eph. 2:2-3) NLT

- This says our mind use to be fueled by sinful **temptations**.

SO JESUS... IN (Matt. 5:27-28) NKJV

- Addressed the devastating end of *temptation*.
 - Lust is the seed & adultery is the fruit.
 - Same issue with hatred & murder.

THE IDEA IS...

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- When we leave the inner thoughts & emotions unchecked...
 - They eventually give way to the outer activity.

SO... AT THE CORE...

- *Temptation* is a human heart problem that James talks about.

POINT #1 – BAIT & SWITCH: (vv.13-14)

FIRST (v.13) NLT

- James provides two absolutes:
 - a) God is never tempted to do wrong.
 - b) God never tempts anyone else to do wrong.

THEN HE MOVES INTO (v.14) NKJV

- Where he explains how *temptation* works.
 - And the end results it brings!

Drawn Away: This is fishing & hunting language.

- Hooking a fish OR using a decoy to lure an animal into a snare.

THESE ARE THE TACTICS OF SATAN!

- He’s trying to seduce an inner weakness...
 - By luring our minds & emotions into a trap.

HE DOES THIS BY...

- Offering things that are forbidden by God.
 - He stirs up “*evil desires*” (Col. 3:5) NLT

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- Here’s what God says: (Gal. 5:16) NLT

NOW... IF WE DON’T THE WARNING FROM THIS...

- Look what happens – back to (James 1:14).
 - The word is “*enticed*” – which means: Caught by bait.

Tell Jodi’s pelican story

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POINT #2 – BACKSLIDING: (v.15)

THE FLAVOR OF THE ILLUSTRATION...

- Starts with sexual intimacy...
- And goes all the way to death.

THERE’S A FULL LIFE CYCLE HERE:

- Conceived** (Satan’s enticement worked & your caught now!)
- Birth** (Stepping thru a door into a forbidden area.)
- Full-grown** (This is what Jesus warned about = lust & adultery)
“If you look upon a woman...”

*Leaving the inner thoughts & emotions unchecked...

- Eventually gives way to the outer activity.

Eve was tempted with what she SAW... **(Gen. 3:6(a) NLT**

Satan solicited **Jesus** with what He SAW... **(Matt. 4:8) NLT**
(He tried to tempt Jesus)

And Satan uses the same thing to pull **us** off course **(1 John 2:16) NLT**

- 1) Cravings for physical pleasures
- 2) Cravings for what we see
- 3) Pride in what I’ve done & what I own

BUT THE END RESULT...

- Of living this kind of life **is death!**

d) Death

POINT #3 – BOTTOMLINE: (v.16)

“Don’t be misled...”

- Literally: Don’t be lead away into error!

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IT’S A SACRIFICE TO FOLLOW JESUS...

- In this life there’s going to be things you’ll miss out on!

HOWEVER...

- Never forget... that what you lay up in heaven...
 - By obeying & serving the Lord
 - Will never be LOST!!!

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO READ YOU...

- The words of Jesus out of **(Mark 8:34-36) NLT**

- ✝ Jesus called the crowds.
- ✝ If you want to follow me, stop being selfish!
- ✝ If you’re only living for now, you’re going to lose!
- ✝ If you give me your life, you will win!
- ✝ But think about...
 - What do you benefit...
 - If you get everything the world has to offer...
 - But lose your soul for all eternity!?!

~ COMMUNION ~

MAY WE RECOGNIZE THIS MORNING...

- That Jesus died for everyone who would embrace His Grace.
 - And the gift in which He offers is to exchange our sins...
 - For His righteousness.

(Isa. 1:18) NLT

GOD WANTS US TO ACKNOWLEDGE...

- The depths of our sin!
 - The sin that stains our soul...
 - Like blood on clothes (scarlet - red dye from a worm).

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SIN...

- Always precedes Jesus’ cleansing – (confession)!

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CHURCH...

- There's an aberrant teaching out there...
 - Telling Christians you don't need to confess sin!

IT'S ABSOLUTELY HERETICAL!!!

- And it deceives the simple-minded.

JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY THIS WAY (Matt. 6:12) NLT

IN (1 John 1:8-10) NLT

HERE'S THE POINT...

- At the communion table we're to remember the work of Jesus!
 - We're to take seriously the significance...
 - Of the body & blood of Christ!
- And we're to turn away from those...
 - *Temptations* that are enslaving our lives!

SO THIS MORNING...

- I urge you to yield to Jesus...
 - And ask Him to wash you afresh of your sins.

GOD IS DOING GREAT THINGS AROUND HERE...

- And without a doubt He's going to come for His church...
 - At a moment no one expects.

WILL YOU BE READY?

~ LET'S PRAY ~