

Enduring Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

Intro:

Matthew 26:69-75

A. Consider the Temptation of Peter to betray the Lord

- i. First instinct may be to deride... I wouldn't have betrayed...
 - a. Second instinct may be one of sympathy
 - b. Was in a "seemingly impossible" situation
 - i. Had just witnessed betrayal of Jesus by Judas... (26:47-50) Who could he trust?
 - ii. His Lord had just been taken away by a mob... (26:57) His guard is down; He is demoralized.
 - iii. Knew of the fate that awaited Jesus... Being faithful could hurt him.
 - c. Was there no way out for Peter?
 - i. This was a *common temptation*... Job 2:3-9
 - a. After suffering loss of family, prosperity, and health, Job stands up to the temptation to deny the Lord
 - ii. This was a *lesser temptation*... Matt. 26: 51-53, John 9:34
 - a. Peter had stood up to mobs, and the rulers of the day; Could he not withstand the questions of a servant girl?
 - iii. This was an *avoidable temptation*... Matt. 26:33-35
 - a. Peter knew in advance that the temptation to deny Christ would come, but failed to take advantage

B. Is There Such a Thing as an Impossible Temptation?

- i. Peter, like us, had access to *Three Facts* concerning temptation: With this knowledge, No Temptation is unavoidable. (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - a. "Temptation...is common to man"
 - i. Context of the chapter: Israel has done it all! Learn from their mistakes
 - b. "God is faithful...not allow... tempted beyond what you're able"
 - i. The difficulty is *never* beyond your ability!

- c. “Will provide a way of escape”
 - i. Satan can *never* back you into a corner: God always has an escape plan!
- ii. Let us examine “impossible temptations” faced by God’s people, and see if this holds true.

i. Jeroboam’s Temptation: Can I Trust God’s Word? *I Kings 11:34-38, 12:26-28*

- a. God had promised a Kingdom... But “Jeroboam had reason to doubt”
 - i. The people could change their minds...
 - a. It had only been a disagreement over taxes... 1 Ki. 12:4
 - b. They were a fickle people!
 - ii. He was not of the throne of David... 1 Ki. 12:26
 - a. This was important, they knew the promises to David: Perhaps he would be viewed as illegitimate
 - iii. People’s hearts would want a unified nation... 1 Ki. 12:27
 - a. Going to Jerusalem to Worship would turn their hearts back...
- b. Was there no way out for Jeroboam?
 - i. *A common temptation!* Gen. 12:1-4, 18:10-11
 - a. Abram called from advanced civilization to dwell in Tents!
 - b. Abraham and Sarah promised a child that came at 100!
 - c. Many could have doubted God’s promise, but made these words their own: “*Is anything too difficult for the Lord?*”
 - ii. *A lesser temptation!* 1 Kings 12:20-24
 - a. Jeroboam had enough trust to rise up and take the throne!
 - b. Jeroboam had held on in the face of an army... that God turned back!
 - c. Could he not trust God in a time of peace?
 - iii. *An avoidable temptation!* 1 Kings 11: 34-38
 - a. God had given him assurance before hand
 - b. God had given him time to build trust
 - c. By this point Jeroboam should have had a relationship with God to the point of consulting the prophets and God.

2. Israel's Temptation: Which Set of Spies do we Listen to? *Num. 13:25-14:4*

- a. The people had been commanded to take the Land... but that's impossible!
 - i. The people are too numerous... 13:29
 - a. People in the wilderness, people in the hills, people by the oceans and rivers!
 - ii. The people are too strong... 13:28,31
 - a. We are just a bunch of shepherds! These are strong warriors!
 - iii. The people are too big... 13:28, 32-33
 - a. They will step on us like grasshoppers!
 - iv. The cities have walls!... 13:28
 - a. How can we hope to get through them!
- b. Was there no way out for Israel?
 - i. *A common temptation!* Gen. 14:11-16
 - a. Abraham led 318 men against *Four Kings* and their armies!
 - b. Could God not deliver these cities into their hands?
 - ii. *A lesser temptation!* Exodus 14
 - a. Although they did not hold up very well, they had withstood an army chasing them to the sea! And seen it destroyed!
 - b. Surely they could have faith in the God who destroyed their attackers could be with them as they attacked!
 - iii. *An avoidable temptation!* Ex. 14, 15:22, 16, 17:1-7, 17:8-16
 - a. God had shown them his power on multiple occasions:
 - i.** Sea divides
 - ii.** Provides water
 - iii.** Provides Mana
 - iv.** Provides Quail
 - v.** Water from the Rock
 - vi.** Defeat of Amalek
 - vii.** Not to mention the 10 plagues!
 - b. Escape simply required them to look to the past!

3. Applying to Ourselves: Does this Passage Hold True?

- a. There is no temptation we will face that does not have a Biblical parallel that demonstrates God's three simple principles to endure temptation
 - i. Honesty: Abraham and Sarah Gen 12, Annanias and Saphria Acts 5
 - ii. Sexual Impurity: Joseph Gen 39, David II Sam. 11
 - iii. Greed: Achan in Joshua 7, Balaam, Num 22, Gahazi II Kings 5
 - iv. Anger: Cain Gen 4.
- b. Can read through Gal. 5:19-21 and find examples of all works of the flesh

Conclusion:

- a. God has given us a wonderful promise and a blessing in this passage
- b. It has also given us a tremendous responsibility
 - a. We've all fallen short (Romans 3:23) and we have no excuse!
- c. If you have not obeyed the gospel, or are not living as you should this passage should give you both motivation to obey, and hope for the future.