

Who Are You Trusting?

Matthew 4:1-4

I. Satan and his demons attack our vulnerabilities (I John 2:16 NASB)

- A. The lust of the flesh.
 - 1. "Flesh" sometimes refers to our physical bodies.
 - 2. Sometimes it refers to our fallen nature.
- B. When Eve and Jesus were tempted, neither was fallen.
 - 1. So, Satan is tempting them through a physical desire.
 - 2. But there is also an emotional/psychological aspect.
- C. The enemy manipulates our natural needs to stir up lust.
 - 1. A lust is a desire that has become twisted/unhealthy.
 - (a) We are responsible for those desires (James 1:14).
 - (b) But false beliefs have a part in corrupting desires.
 - 2. Our natural needs and desires aren't necessarily bad.
 - 3. But a natural desire can become distorted.
 - (a) It depends on what we believe we will get from it.

II. Satan is the original source of misinformation. He is a liar.

- A. We live in an age when misinformation is prevalent.
 - 1. So called "journalists" are editorialists.
 - (a) Opinions are always biased.
 - 2. The Social Dilemma (Netflix)
- B. Similarly, Satan and his allies seek to manipulate our needs.
 - 1. They do it by feeding us false information.
 - 2. One of the core characteristics of God is truthfulness.
 - (a) Jesus said, "I am the truth."
 - (b) Satan is characterized by untruth (lies, deception).
- C. Story of Eve's temptation centers around forbidden fruit.
 - 1. It's not about whether the fruit is good for food.
 - 2. It is a test.
 - (a) God established a boundary by his Word.
 - (b) Will Adam and Eve trust God and obey?
 - (c) Or will they test the Word of God by eating?
 - (d) It is a test of trust, loyalty, faithfulness.
 - 3. To pass the test, Eve needs to believe (trust) the truth.
 - (a) She needs to trust that God is good and truthful.
 - (b) That God loves them and wants good for them.
 - (c) She needs to believe that God is trustworthy.
 - 4. All those things are true of God, but Eve needs to trust.
 - (a) Satan attacks by slandering God.
 - (b) By implying that God is not trustworthy.
- D. Satan uses our needs to manipulate us.
 - 1. Satan attacks two primary needs.
 - (a) Security: our need for love and safety.

- (b) Significance: our need for meaning, fulfillment, enjoyment.
 - 2. We have been given boundaries also through God's Word.
 - (a) For example: "Do not commit adultery."
 - (b) We can understand why it's not good. You're hurting people.
 - (c) So why might it be tempting?
 - (d) Because of what we believe about God and about our needs.
 - 3. Review II C.
 - (a) That is where the attack happens, lies about God and what this choice will get for me.
 - 4. Two areas of belief we need to keep straight.
 - (a) What we believe about the character of God.
 - (b) How our needs are supposed to be met, in ways that are good and healthy.

III. How do you do combat with a spiritual liar? (Matthew 4:3-4)

- A. The sword of the Spirit is the truth of God's Word.
 - 1. The sword of the enemy is lies.
 - 2. Jesus parried the lies with truth.
- B. The temptation is that "it will be good for Jesus to make bread."
 - 1. That it will be life-giving sustenance.
 - (a) The lie is **always** that sin will bring life.
 - 2. This is a reminder of Eve's temptation.
 - (a) God had spoken truth: "You will die if you eat."
 - (b) Satan says, "you surely will not die." Or, "you'll live."
 - 3. Jesus recognizes the lie. How?
 - (a) Anything that contradicts God's Word is a lie.
 - (b) The contradiction was implied in what Satan said to do.
 - (c) He was baiting Jesus with the promise of what bread would do for him.
 - (d) He does the same thing with us.
 - 4. Jesus saw through his scheme and parried with truth.
 - (a) "Man lives when he trusts the Word of God" (paraphrase)
 - (b) "The righteous shall live by faith," (by trust) and vice versa is implied. Not just about salvation. It's about sanctification.
 - 5. Back to our example of adultery. The truth (Prov. 7:1, 7, 21-23)
- C. To survive the battle, we need to be proficient with the sword!
 - 1. Are you developing spiritual muscle by getting truth into your heart?