

James: Temptation

Sermon Notes May 5th, 2024

James 1:13-18

The Antiquity of the Jews Book 20:9

“when, therefore, Ananus was of this disposition, he thought he had now a proper opportunity [to exercise his authority]. Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned.” - Josephus

What the letter is:

“A moral map to sketch out the way of wisdom for the church.” New Testament in its World: Wright/Bird

1:13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Πειραζο pi-rad'-zo

God clearly “tested” people in the Bible and later Jewish literature (Gen 22:1; Deut 8:2; 13:3; Judges 2:22), but he never tested them in the sense that is implied here: seeking for them to fail instead of persevering.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ESV

Lured and _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - Fully grown into _____.

Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

The tempter in our lives can never sin on our behalf. We do, when we _____, _____, for _____.

Our desires for self lead to actions to satisfy them, and that always _____ our relationships with each other and God.

16 Do not be led astray, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change.

The tests that God gives always bring about the _____ in us and the _____ of his Kingdom. He has never changed in this way.

The challenge for us is not to let your test from God that will lead to _____ turn into a trap because you let your desires lead you to _____.

18 By his sovereign plan, he gave us birth through the message of truth, that we would be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life.

First Fruit is a reference to **Exodus 23:19**

God desired the Israelites to take the _____ of their labor and give it to God, not the seconds or the leftovers, but the very first and best.

James is talking about the _____ that God has for you. You are his first fruits; he separates you for himself over all that he has created.

Many of you are going through things that:

- Could just be life and bad timing. Not everything is a test from God or the result of your desire.
- It could be God refining you in order to become a better partner in his Kingdom. Thus persevere.
- It could be the result of your own selfish desires, and if not repented of by trusting the message of truth, Jesus. It will lead to further broken relationships with God and others.

TAKE HOME:

- Is what you are experiencing causing broken relationships around you? Begin to pursue Jesus and evaluate your actions and situation through the lens of his words and behavior. If they don't match up, repent and believe.
- Is what you are experiencing something that is a lot to bear but can be something that God uses to reach others for his Kingdom? This can be hard to tell for sure. Persevere and trust. Move into spaces of trusted relationships with others that can encourage you to re-evaluate or keep going.