

The Science of Temptation Part 2

“How to Overcome Temptation?”

Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Review:

Satan's main goal in his temptations is to cause doubt to the Words and promises of God and cause men to sin against God.

Remember, some of the evil techniques that Satan uses are covert negatives and incredulous statements or questions.

Covert negatives are phrases used to hide its true negative meaning and intent. Its main intention is to twist the truth and manipulate a person away from the truth and sin against God.

Incredulous: “Disinclined or indisposed to believe; skeptical.” These are said in a way to invoke skepticism or disbelief. It’s not what is said but how it is said.

Last sermon we began to look at how Satan was successful in deceiving Eve to eat from the forbidden tree.

Adam and Eve were made to live in perfect harmony with God forever, but as a test of loyalty what was God's explicit instructions about the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Covert Negative & Incredulous

Genesis 3:1 Yea or but... “hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” This was a very crafty question.

Remember: Is Satan's question true? Yes, they could not eat from every tree of the garden. Even though the question is true, but it is grossly misrepresented.

Let's continue our study where we left in our previous sermon.

How do we know that Eve was mesmerized and hooked by Satan's covert negative incredulous question?

She responded! Once she responded, Satan knew that she actually doubted God's truth. He knew that she is set up for a grand deception to eat from the forbidden tree. Let's look at her response to the snake, Satan.

In trying to correct Satan's incredulous question, she says

Genesis 3:2, 3

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

When you analyze Eve's response you can see that she began to doubt God and His truth. **How do we know, she also misrepresents God's truth, by not only misquoting it but putting more emphasis and focus on the forbidden tree. She bought into Satan's covert negative incredulous question.**

You can imagine that God said with joy and a smile, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." But when he said with sincerity, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."; you can imagine that he said it with the sternness of a parent, but with the sincerity of a friend.

But when Eve responded to the snake her response was filled with doubt.

In the first part of the sentence, she left out the word "freely". God said, that they could "freely eat". This is very important because God used the word, "freely" to reveal that God gave man true freedom to live and enjoy the goodness of God as a result of obedience to truth.

When Eve omitted the word "freely", Satan knew that she doubted God's truth. He knew that she interpreted his incredulous question to mean that God was holding something back from them and that He actually had them in bondage! **She also probably said it with some sarcasm in her voice.**

In the second part of the response to Satan's question Eve places more emphasis on the forbidden tree by adding to the Word of God.

Let's look at verse 3 again: Eve said "But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it**, lest ye die."

God did not say anything about touching the fruit of the forbidden tree. Don't miss this. By adding the words, "neither shall ye touch it" she made it appear that God was unreasonable and stern. In other words, she is interpreting to the snake, "The fruit of the forbidden tree is so deadly to us that even if we touch it, we will die!" God did not say this.

Eve's response in verse 3 was probably the same way a friend responds to "juicy" gossip. Satan knew he had a sympathizing new friend, all he had to do next is to deceive her into eating from the forbidden tree.

Lesson 6: Whenever you omit any truth from God's Word or add to it (human reasoning) in response to Satan's first phase of temptation, you are in doubt and now open for the deception. You will fail.

In verse 3: At the very end of the sentence Eve also deleted another word from God's truth, "surely". God said "surely die" meaning *die* repeated twice "die die", cease to exist. Eve just says "die". This exposes to Satan that Eve was in full blown doubt of God's truth and really didn't believe that she would actually die die, cease to exist.

At this point Satan knows her thinking is twisted and doubtful to God's truth so he is ready to pounce with an all out lie.

What did Satan say to Eve next after she deleted "surely" from die?

Genesis 3:4

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not surely** die:

Satan knew that Eve was now his friend that he could sympathize and talk to. In other words, "Girl, honey child, you are right, I agree with you, you will **not** surely die." This is in direct opposition to what God said. Satan insinuated that she would not really die, but maybe continue to live in another place. In other words, God is not really going to allow you to cease to exist.

Lesson 7: Satan's temptation's always contradict God's truth! Don't yield.

Eve should have caught that straight up lie right away, but she was spellbound by doubt of God's truth, then she was easily deceived. Her discernment to detect lies was gone.

Lesson 8: Whenever you doubt God's truth, all **discernment or ability** to detect Satan's lies is gone! You will be deceived.

Once Satan saw that he could lie to Eve without detection, he knew that he could cause his full blown deception and entice her to eat from the forbidden tree.

What did Satan say to Eve next in verse 5?

Genesis 3:5

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

This was full blown deception! Satan is now allowed to fully misrepresent the truth and misrepresent the character of God.

In Eve's mind she is interpreting Satan's word's with the help of demonic spirits to say in first person, "God is holding something back from me." "Like the snake said, I can be like, God!" "How can a snake speak with such wisdom, I must have what he has."

Lesson 9: When Satan or his demons tempt, they will sometimes speak to you in first person. Using words like "I, me, my" to refer to yourself. For example: When trying to get you to be discouraged and depressed about a certain situation in tempting you he will say, "I am

hopeless, nobody cares about me.” Many times we think these are our original thoughts, but these are actually demonic spirits speaking to you in first person.

Eve also observed that the snake was touching and eating from the tree and nothing was happening to him! She is probably saying to herself, “So if nothing is happened to him, it must be okay. God must not be telling the truth.”

Lesson 10: Never forget,

Hebrews 6:18 says that it is “impossible for God to lie.”

John 8:44 reveals that Satan is the author of lies and “abode not in the truth.”

Whenever someone disregards God's truth as if He is lying, but makes it appear that he must be right in his “wrong” because he does not appear to be reaping the consequences of his disobedience. He tempts you that nothing will happen to you either, insinuating that you are stupid not to do as he does. Get out! Full blown deception is taking place.

What did Eve do next in verse 6? Let's look at the first part.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat...

Don't miss this: When someone is speaking to us we naturally interpret not only what is being said but in the way it is presented. Satan knows this, that is why he is very selective in his words and presentation.

Satan was careful to make it appear that he was on her side. He made his presentation look very beautiful.

“It was pleasant to the eyes” of Eve.

Satan's presentations that are designed to awaken all the senses sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. That is why he used a beautiful snake (at that time). You can imagine that he had a musical seductive rhythmic hypnotic tone to his voice when he spoke to Eve.

Lesson 11: Another technique that Satan uses to tempt us is that he will always appeal to our senses sight, hearing, touch, smell or taste. He wants to bypass your decision making process in your frontal lobe and entice your senses; things that naturally occur in us. For example, when you get hungry your appetite says eat, but your decision making process should control how, when, and what you should eat. Satan does not want that frontal lobe process to happen, he wants you to live for the moment and just satisfy your hunger.

Eve yielded to Satan's temptation on the point of appetite. She “saw that the tree was good for food.” All reasoning, frontal lobe thinking, went “out the window.” Her senses were mesmerized! She ate.

What does Eve do next in the second half of verse 6?

Gen 3:6and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Eve became an agent of the Satan. It seems that Satan is always using somebody to do his bidding. First he used the snake to deceive Eve and now he is using Eve to tempt and deceive Adam! After Eve was deceived, Satan was no longer confined to the tree, now he had access to Adam through Eve!

With a basket full of fruits from the forbidden tree, Adam sees Eve walking up to him in all her beauty and innocence. He probably said, "Eve, where have you been, I missed you. We are normally always together." Eve, the apple of his eye, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, tells him of her adventure. She tells him her experience at the forbidden tree and the beautiful wise snake that spoke with her. You can imagine as Eve is telling all about her adventure, Adam's heart starts to race with worry. He tells himself, "Please, don't tell me that she ate from the forbidden tree. No, no please. I hope not." While these worried thoughts are running through his mind, Eve says it, "I ate from that tree, honey, you know the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Look at me, I did not die!" You can imagine that Adam for the first time feels great frustration for the first time. Now, he has his hand on his head in utter disbelief. You can imagine, many thoughts are racing through his head, "why did I let her stray from my side!" He looks at the love of his life while she offers him the fruit from the forbidden tree. He knows that she was deceived. He knows that Eve clearly broke the commandment of God and is in full rebellion. With the influence of the spirit of Satan that now surrounds Eve, Adam began to contemplate God's TRUTH. He began to question God's truth and doubt began to overcome his mind. He knew that if he refused Eve's offer that she would die, cease to exist. He could not imagine life without her. She was special, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. She was so beautiful! His heart began to break with the lump in his throat as he tries to imagine life without her. He doubted that God could replace Eve. He doubted that he would ever get over missing Eve. Only thinking about himself and sympathizing with Eve, Adam's love for Eve overruled his love for the TRUTH. Because of doubt, Adam chose to love Eve more than His creator, God.

When Adam allowed doubt to creep in, he himself was opened to believe Satan's lies.

"He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her. After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true? Eve was before him, as beautiful and apparently as innocent as before this act of disobedience. She expressed greater love for him than before. No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate. {Patriarchs and Prophets, P 56.2}

"After his transgression Adam at first imagined himself entering upon a higher state of existence. But soon the thought of his sin filled him with terror. The air, which had hitherto been of a mild and uniform temperature, seemed to chill the guilty pair. The love and peace which had been theirs was gone, and in its place they felt a sense of sin, a dread of the future, a nakedness of soul. The robe of light which had enshrouded them, now disappeared, and to supply its place they endeavored to fashion for themselves a covering; for they could not, while unclothed, meet the eye of God and holy angels. They now began to see the true character of their sin. {PP 57.1}

In the garden, Satan presented his first advertising commercial to Adam and Eve to make things appear more than they really are. In obedience Adam and Eve already had freedom, wisdom, peace, and truth. They were not God, but made in the image of God to reflect the glory of God. Satan wanted to make it appear that they did not have these things and yearn for something they already had!

Lesson 12: When tempting you, Satan and his demons always present you with offers that make it appear that you will gain more by yielding to his temptation. He will make it appear that you are in bondage when you are already free in Jesus. He will make it appear that obedience is legalism, when you are expressing your love to Jesus. He will make it appear that you are stupid, when you are already wise in Jesus. He will make it appear that you are depressed when you are already happy in Jesus. **If you yield to Satan's temptations you will find out like Adam and Eve you will LOSE what you already had!**

The only way to overcome Satan's temptations is to have faith in the explicit revealed truth in God's Word.

When Christ was tempted of the devil in the wilderness he completely relied on the Word of God and nothing else, we must do the same.

In part three of this study will explore in more detail how Jesus overcame Satan's temptations and how we can overcome because Christ overcame.

Praise the Lord... appeal...