



BEAT TEMPTATION

This week you will pass the halfway mark in your season. You have already played a lot of baseball and still have a lot to go to finish the season. Often times a little fatigue begins to set in at this time. When we become tired, Satan becomes more active. That is why this week we will study together beating temptation. Satan wants nothing more than to trip you up on and off the field. He wants to hurt your witness for Christ. Keep in mind, God has you playing baseball this summer for more than a good batting average or earned run average. He has a purpose for each of you to serve Him, to share His love, to make a difference for His Kingdom!!

Let's see what we need to know about temptation and how to pass the test.

Sunday: Read 1Corinthians 10:12-13

Paul writes to the church at Corinth to stand firm in the face of temptation. Paul tells us we can rely upon the faithfulness of God to help us stand firm in the face of temptation.

1. **Why do we need to be careful not to fall?**
2. **What are the two ways God is faithful in the face of temptation?**
3. **Why is it important to stand firm in the face of temptation?**

Monday: Read Hebrews 2:14-18

The writer of Hebrews is talking about Jesus in this section. The key verse is verse 18. Since Jesus suffered when He was tempted in the Wilderness, He is able to help us when we are tempted.

1. **What does it mean to each of us that Jesus knows what it means to be tempted?**
2. **What do we think of when we are reminded that Jesus paid the price for our sins?**
3. **How can Jesus help us when we are tempted?**

Tuesday: Read James 1:12-18

Today James is going to teach us about persevering through trials (temptations). We will be blessed by God when we get through temptation! Are we ready to pass the test?

- 1. What is the blessing for persevering through temptation?**
- 2. What entices (tempts) us to sin?**
- 3. When we give in and do not repent from sin what is the end result?**

Wednesday: Read Matthew 4:1-11

Immediately after Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, he was led by the Spirit into the Wilderness to be tempted by the devil. That area of Israel is sand, rocks and more sand. It is indeed desolate and not where one would commonly go. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. Could you imagine going without nourishment for that long? Remember Jesus came to this world to be born of a woman. He was human with human needs. After 40 days of fasting He was hungry. Satan strikes at our weak points. So his first temptation was to turn the rocks into bread. The stones in that area looked like small loaves of bread. Satan was tempting Jesus to fulfill a physical need. Jesus answered the temptation by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. Then Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple. There was a steep gorge at that area of the temple. Satan wanted to get Jesus to throw Himself off the heights to the valley below. Don't forget Satan is crafty. He quotes Scripture here to Jesus, Psalm 91:11-12. Satan used the temptation of getting the people to follow Jesus by sensationalism. Can you imagine the headlines in the Jerusalem Post, Jesus Hurls Himself Down from the Pinnacle of the Temple... Angels Catch Him? These temptations occurred at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. He wanted the people to follow Him. One could argue that would be one grand entrance on the religious stage. But Jesus once again saw through Satan's deceptions. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16, score after two innings Jesus 2 Satan 0. For Satan's third temptation he took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. Satan said to Jesus all of this will be yours if you fall down and worship me. Satan was tempting Jesus with power. You can have it all!! Jesus told Satan, Away from me and quoted Deuteronomy 6:13. Satan left defeated, final score...

Jesus 3 Satan 0!

- 1. What did Jesus use to defeat Satan's temptations?**
- 2. How can we use God's Word in a similar way?**

3. Why was Jesus able to use the Word to win?
4. Satan tempted Jesus to take the easy way out, how does he tempt us to do the same thing?
5. Jesus told Satan to hit the road, can we do the same thing? Why or why not?

Thursday: Read 2Samuel 11:1-27

Today we look at an episode in the life of David, who was called a man after God's own heart. David not only committed adultery with Bathsheba, but also murder in getting rid of her husband Uriah. Sometimes when we neglect our responsibilities, Satan will strike. Read these words with an eye on the fact that Satan will strike at our weakness and when we least expect him.

1. Where should have David been instead of being in Jerusalem?
2. How can the second look David gave Bathsheba teach us about temptation and sin?
3. How did David try to cover up his sin?
4. Did David think he had gotten away with his sin? *Read Chapter 12*

Friday: Read Romans 3:21-26

Paul reminds us today that we all have sinned. The word for sin in the Greek means missing the mark as in missing the target with an arrow. We all have missed the mark and fallen short because of our sin and mistakes.

1. What enables us to ask for forgiveness?
2. What did God present Jesus to be for us?
3. What does this statement mean to you: if Jesus loved us enough to die for our sins, should we not love Him enough to live for Him each day?

Saturday: Read 1John 1:5-10

John gives us the key to walking in the light and staying out of the darkness. Read these verses and then read them again slowly asking God to let the words be planted in our hearts.

- 1. How can we have fellowship with one another?**
- 2. What purifies us from our sin?**
- 3. What happens when we confess our sins?**
- 4. Are there sins right now we need to confess to God? God loves us so much that when we confess our sins, He erases them as if they never existed. My friends that is love and forgiveness!!**