

***BUMPER – Wonderful METAL World

<Temptations Title>

What a wonderful world... Welcome...

We are in our 2nd week of the Temptations series. A quick review...

- This world is UGLY. A result of our fallen Nature...
 - The 1 sin in the Garden took over the entire world...
- 3 Temptations – Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, Pride of Life
- Lust of the Flesh – A desire for physical pleasure. A Me Mentality
- Lust of the flesh isn't just sexual, although it is a major player
 - God gave us sex to enjoy
- Sex is only safe within Covenant
- Lust is the antithesis of Covenant **<LUST & COVENANT>**
 - Lust of the flesh says.... I will dishonor the promise to receive the pleasure.
 - Covenant says... I will receive displeasure to honor the promise.
- There is no Natural Solution for Sin... but Jesus is our Supernatural solution.
 - 2000 years ago... before you and I were born and committed the sin He had taken our sin and nailed it to His cross.

Here is a Reminder – We have a Podcast...

We are going to talk about the Lust of the Eyes today... but first I have a few things to cover.

<Why does God let me be tempted...?>

When a person struggles with a temptation... they are trying to stop but they keep falling back into it or their mind keeps thinking about it... they usually ask "WHY DOES GOD LET THIS HAPPEN? WHY DOESN'T HE STOP TEMPTING ME OR TAKE THE TEMPTATION AWAY?"

If God has the power to do anything, then why doesn't he stop tempting me..?

James 1:14 (NIV) ...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

WHO'S DESIRES?? OUR OWN DESIRES!

We are tempted not by God... God never tempts us... it is our own evil desire that drags us away and entices us.

God is not attempting to drag you into sin... to entice you into sin...

This is a common misconception... That God is dangling a sin carrot in front of us... much like you would a donkey in order to get him to move.. God, this all powerful being is tempting us with these desires...

If that were true that would mean a Holy God is trying to tempt you to sin... That would be a theological mess.

James 1:13 (NIV) When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1:14 (NIV) ...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Now wait a second... Doesn't the Bible say God tests us...? Yes.

Psalms 26:2 (NIV) Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV) "I the LORD search the heart and examine (TEST) the mind..."

The Hebrew word, Bachan meaning to examine, scrutinize, to test... appears in both of these scriptures and many more... At times it is even translated Tempted...

Is this a contradiction in the word of God? You just said God won't Tempt us... but you also said God will Test us... what is the difference...?

This is a point many have used to disprove the Bible. It's seems on the surface to be a contradiction. It's easily misunderstood. The word can be used in both a positive and negative way... it is translated differently...

<Testing vs Tempting> What is the difference in Tempting and Test?

The difference is in the motive. You tempt someone if you want them to fail. Satan in the Garden and in the wilderness tempted Eve and Jesus... He wanted them to fail.

You test someone if you want to see them pass. This makes sense for us who have gone through school. A good teacher will prepare us with information and then test us... The motive here is that we succeed. Our Teacher gives us all the information we need and then tests, measures, scrutinizes, and examines if we have truly received the information.

The Tempter wants you to Fail!

The Tester wants you to succeed!

God is a Tester but never a Tempter! SINCE HE IS OUR TESTER... IT MEANS HE WANTS US TO SUCCEED!

How many know that GOD IS FOR YOU NOT AGAINST YOU!!?

Check out this scripture...

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.

You may have been tempted and really messed up. Epic Fail! But the Word says what seized you wasn't this uncommon, special, worse than other kinds of temptation or sin... You aren't more apt to sin than other people... you aren't more evil than other people...

What is tempting you is common to man.

You feel like a loser, like you want to hide your face, like you can never face people again when they find out about your AWFUL TERRIBLE SIN...

YOUR SIN IS NOTHING SPECIAL.... It's common to mankind.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD STOP FREAKING OUT OVER SIN... THEY SHOULD STOP ACTING LIKE SOME SINS ARE WORSE THAN OTHERS! They shouldn't look past their own sin and attack someone else's sins!!!

No one in this place has committed a sin so big and terrible that they can't find Redemption. SO STOP BEATING YOURSELF UP!! I haven't committed a bigger sin than you & you haven't committed a sin larger than mine.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.

What are the next 4 words of 1 Corinthians 10:13?

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) ...And God is faithful

Yes I failed... ...And God is faithful

Yes I messed up... ...And God is faithful

Yes I am far from perfect... ...And God is faithful

Satan reminds me of all my mistakes... BUT I'VE GOT 4 WORDS FOR HIM!!!! ...And God is faithful!

GOD IS FOR US!!

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) ...He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Has God ever provided you a way of Escape? JESUS is our way of Escape.

The temptation that had you beaten down and ashamed... Jesus has set you free and given you power so that you can STAND UP UNDER IT.

Temptation is not sin...

James 1:15 (NIV) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

<Tempted > Sin > Death>

Desire/Temptation gives birth to Sin...

Temptation is not sin.. Jesus was tempted... *Jesus has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.* Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

Although He was tempted He did not sin.

<Tempted > Sin > Death>

But if you allow Temptation/desire to conceive... It can only conceive 1 thing... sin. And then if you allow that sin to grow... when it is full grown it brings death.

Let me help you here... If you are temped in an area... Repent – Turn from it. Do it IMMEDIATELY!

If you were tempted and you sinned... Repent... Don't let that sin grow up... it brings death. Don't wait! REPENT!

BE URGENT ABOUT REPENTANCE! We are urgent about life and death things... be urgent about repentance... it is life or death. Are you urgent about dialing 911? YES! But I have seen people in sin and they know they need to repent; I've seen them say I'll put it off for another day.

911 URGENT REPENTANCE!

Temptations isn't sin... but it will give birth to sin and eventually bring death. SO REPENT!

<Lust of the Eyes>

Matthew 6:22-23 (NIV) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Anyone remember the old Sunday school favorite “Oh be careful little eyes what you see...” Our eyes, and more importantly, what we choose to look upon effects your entire life... your body is effected by what you see. The difference between Light a Darkness is found in your eyes.

The Lust of the Flesh is the desire for physical pleasure.

The Lust of the Eyes is the desire for the Visual... You see something and then want something... You begin to covet. Most of the times our eyes want us to have things we shouldn't have.

The 10 Commandments tell us to not covet..

Exodus 20:17 (NIV) You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

King David – the man after God's own heart.. He fell prey to the Lust of the Eyes. The temptation gave birth to sin...

2 Samuel 11:2 (NIV) ²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

Temptation. This isn't sin necessarily... He wasn't looking for this, it's just that David's eyes happened to see it...

2 Samuel 11:3 (NIV)and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriahthe Hittite?”

He is indulging his temptation... He is Lusting, desiring after something he shouldn't have... but his eyes have told him that he needs this... Temptation is getting ready to give birth to sin.

2 Samuel 11:4 (NIV)Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

What was conceived with the eyes has now given birth... Like James 1:15 says... When this sin is full grown it will give birth to death.

Lots of death came from this sin.

The death of Uriah & Bathsheba's marriage...

The death of Uriah came from this night...

David's dream to build the Temple dies on this night...

The death of David & Bathsheba's child... David prayed that God would let the child live... he cried tears...

You get the feeling that everything that touched this Sin was touched with death! This is what Sin does!!

Temptation gives birth to sin... sin gives birth to death... **SIN CAN ONLY GIVE BIRTH TO DEATH!**

David's eyes saw a beautiful woman on the rooftop... He didn't see all the death that was about to come. If he could have seen past the physical and into the spiritual...

Why can't our eyes see that? We never do..

<FOCUS>

Remember that your Eyes effect the entire body... The Eye is a Lamp to the Body.. What your eyes focus on soon becomes the focus of your life...

Has the focus of your eyes ever effected your entire body?

Have your eyes ever been bigger than your stomach?

Have you ever become jealous after your eyes saw what someone else has? You were content until your eyes made you discontent.

There are some things in life we would like to forget but what we saw still remains with us... We can't forget what we saw...

Have your eyes ever caused you to do something you weren't planning on doing? I wasn't going to buy anything, but then I saw this... I just had to have it...

What you focus on effects EVERYTHING... There are some things we need to stop focusing on...

It's really difficult to stop looking!

Remember when you secretly stumbled upon a hidden present? Perhaps a Christmas or Birthday... Oh I shouldn't look at that.... You look away... BUT DID YOUR MIND LOOK AWAY? NO! Maybe I should just go look at that again?

You grow up and hormones start kicking in and you walk by an attractive person... Your eyes WANT TO LOOK SO BAD... I've seen guys practically break their necks... the eyes are stronger than their neck muscles.

Perhaps you see the success of people around you. You see celebrity.. wealth.. fame... You see it and you lust after it...

MARK 9:47 (NIV) And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

What is Jesus trying to say? Does he really want me to pluck my eye out? That seems morbid...

Jesus is saying – **REMOVE WHATEVER IS CAUSING YOU TO FALL INTO TEMPTATION!**

Whatever you have to give up in this temporary world to avoid an eternal stay in hell is worth it.

There might be some things we should Pluck from our lives.

<Change your Focus>

Ultimately we need to change our focus. Stop focusing on temporary eye candy. Stop looking to these things that have no life within them to bring life to you.

You may shop when you are sad as a way to cheer yourself up. That doesn't really work it just distracts you. You end up lusting with your eyes rather than deal with the issue.

Lust never fixes the problem!

What if you changed your focus?

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS!! Let Him be the desire of your eyes.

He endured the cross for you. Last week we talked about Colossians 2, where he forgave your sin, canceled the law, and took your sin a nailed it to His cross.

He endured the cross... the pain, shame, and hardship... for the joy set before him... What is that Joy?

Heaven is overtaken with Joy every time someone repents. Today when someone repents in this altar they become the Joy that Hebrews 12 talks about.

<VALUE>

God sees Value in you...

Our eyes often have trouble with value.

- **MUSICIAN**

We eagerly look with our eyes for what this world has to offer. We want the House, the car, the trophy wife, the job, the success, the popularity, new clothes, new cell phone, new computer, new tv...

"If I just had that... Then I'd be happy.. That would bring meaning to my life... Then I would be successful.." So we lust over what this world has to offer... People sell themselves for what this world has to offer...

So what does this world have to offer again...?

1 John 2:15-16 (NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Don't love this world or the things in this world... Because all this world has to offer is TEMPTATION!

If you are in love with the things in this world you aren't clearly understanding value!

The most valuable thing this world has to offer... that thing you desire so badly... isn't something you should place great value on... All the world has to offer is the lust of the Flesh & Eyes and pride of life... that temptation gives birth to sin... which then gives birth to death...

This world offers death... Your eyes would lust after these things... but in the end it's death.

I think to myself what a wonderful world.... It's not wonderful... it's the ugliest sight in the universe...

This world only can bring DEATH. We ought to be 911 Urgent about Repentance!!

And it's temporary... V17 The world is passing away... These TEMPtations are TEMPorary...

We desire things that don't last! The season of enjoyment is very short when it comes to sin. The Bible says the pleasure of sin lasts only for a season... Is there a pleasure we can enjoy that doesn't pass away?

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

We are about to open this altar...

Today as I invite you to this altar you may not literally see Jesus... But He is here. You may not see Him forgiving and healing... but He is here and He is doing that. It's not easy for us, but can we try to not depend on our eyes today?

What is unseen is eternal. The unseen work that Jesus wants to do today is an eternal work...

Have you been loving this world... Have you been thinking more about your earthly home than your eternal home?

Are you ready to focus on something that has real value? Come fix your eyes on Jesus... on what is truly valuable.