

Title: Off the Hook

Text: James 1:13-18

Target: A “Test” is designed to DEVELOP you. A “Temptation” is designed to DERAIL you.

I. Recognize the Source of Temptation: *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.”* (Vs. 13)

A. It’s Not God: *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* (1 John 1:5)

B. Origin of Sin: *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—”* (Romans 5:12)

1. Curse of Sin: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* (Romans 3:23)

2. Nature of Sin: *“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—”* (Ephesians 2:1-2)

3. Wages of Sin: *“For the wages of sin is death,”* (Romans 6:23)

II. Realize the Strategy of Temptation: *“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”* (Vs. 14-15)

A. The Appeal: *“his **own** desire”* (Vs. 14)

Key Verse: *“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life— is not from the Father but is from the world.”* (1 John 2:16)

1. Appetites: *“The desire of the Flesh”* **Mindset:** I want to be Satisfied

2. Ambitions: *“The desire of the Eyes”* **Mindset:** I have to have it

3. Acceptance: *“The Pride of Life”* **Mindset:** I want to be Elevated

B. The Allurement: *“**lured** and **enticed**”* (Vs. 14)

Quote: Satan (The Tempter: 1 Thess. 3:5) based upon his character (Father of Lies: John 8:44) and his desired outcome for you (Steal, Kill and Destroy: John 10:10) will seek to deceive you (Deceiver of the whole world: Revelation 12:9) with what will always look good for you (Satan disguises himself as an angel of light: 2 Cor. 11:4) to only further enslave you.

1. Lured (Fishing): Baiting A Hook

2. Enticed (Hunting): Drawn out into a Trap

C. The Agreement: *“desire when it has **conceived** gives birth to sin”* (Vs. 15) ***Choice to Act makes temptation become sin.**

D. The Aftermath: *“Death”* ***Never what was advertised.**

III. Resist the Seduction of Temptation: *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.”* (Vs. 16)

A. Deception distorts Truth: *“Did God actually say,”* (Genesis 3:1)

- B. Deception draws attention to what's Missing:** *"You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..."* (Genesis 2:16-17)
- C. Deception downplays the Consequences:** *"You will not surely die."* (Genesis 3:4)
- D. Deception deals Freedom:** *"For God knows that when you eat of it... you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (Genesis 3:5)

IV. Remember the Savior in Temptation: *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (Vs. 17)

- A. His Presence:** *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."* (Galatians 5:16)
- B. His Provision:** *"God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."* (1 Cor. 10:13)
- C. His Power:** *"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and overall the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* (Luke 10:19)
- D. His Promise:** *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)
- E. His People:** *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."* (Proverbs 27:17)

Takeaway: Jesus didn't just forgive my sin; He gave me power to fight it. GET OFF THE HOOK TODAY!