
A Plan For Your Temptations (The Crossroads of Life)

God's Plan For Your Trouble

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Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan For Your Temptations (The Crossroads of Life)

Lesson Text

Luke 4:3–13 (AV)³ And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. ⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.** ⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. ⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.** ⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: ¹⁰ For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: ¹¹ And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, **It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.** ¹³ And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

1 John 2:15–17 (AV)¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Introduction

So far, we've looked at God's Plan for our Troubles by looking at "Offenses and Offenders", "Deception and Betrayal," "Snatching Victorious out of the Mouth of Defeat," and "Trials."

Today, we want to look at God's Plan for our Temptations.

Hebrews 4:15 ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

What this passage teaches us is that our High Priest, the Lord, has empathy for our temptations, because he himself was tempted on all points. It simply means that not only did Christ experience all forms and types of temptations, but he also overcame and defeated them.

Our second lesson text teaches us that all points or types of temptations are boiled down to three categories: The Lust of the flesh, The Lust of the Eyes, and The Pride of Life.

The world is filled with these temptations, and they create spiritual crossroads of life for us.

If we take the wrong roads, we will end up down the Paths of Regret, Fear, and Destruction.

But Jesus teaches us that if we take the right at these crossroads of temptation, we will end up down the Paths of Fulfillment, Worship, and Destiny.

One of the prayers that Jesus taught us to pray every day was Matthew 6:13 **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: ...**

The devil is just a ***three-trick pony***, but Jesus gives us a ***three-plan testimony*** on how to overcome these temptations and take the path that God has destined for our lives.

Series and Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan For Your Temptations (The Crossroads of Life)

“The Crossroad of Gratification or Fulfillment, Desires or Worship, and Pride or Humility”

I. The Crossroad of Gratification or Fulfillment

Luke 4:3-4 ³ And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. ⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

1 John 2:16 ¹⁶ **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh,** and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

This temptation is at the crossroads of Gratification Boulevard and Fulfillment Avenue.

It determines if you will be led down the Path of Regret or the Path of Fulfillment

Our flesh always pushes us to take Gratification Boulevard because it wants self-gratification; “It’s my money, and I want it NOW,” “It’s my honey, and I want him/her NOW,” “It’s my house, my job, my promotion and I want it NOW.”

But when they take this Boulevard, they always end up down the Path of Regret:

- “I didn’t know it would end up like this”
- “I didn’t realize you looked like this when I was drunk last night”
- “I didn’t know that one night of self-gratification would cost me 18 years of my life”

But God has a plan for the Lust of the Flesh; and it is to fill us with the Word of God

If we choose the delayed gratification of God’s Word as opposed to self-gratification of our Flesh, we will find that good things come to those that wait.

- Psalm 1:2-3 ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- Deuteronomy 28:2 ² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

- Philippians 4:19 ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Don't take a quick, temporary thrill now, when you can get totally fulfilled later!

II. The Crossroad of Desires or Worship

Luke 4:5-8 ⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. ⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

1 John 2:16 ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, **and the lust of the eyes,** and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

This temptation is at the crossroads of Desire Highway and Worship Parkway.

It determines if you will be led down the Path of Fear or the Path of Worship.

The eyes are the window to the soul that causes us to desire things that we didn't even want in the first place until we saw them.

Too many people have allowed the lusts of the eyes to cause them to get things that they don't need, to impress people that they don't like, and to use money that they don't have.

This is what causes people to love the things more than the giver of the things. And anything that you love more than God will become your object of Worship.

1 Timothy 6:10-11 ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

But God has a plan for the Lust of the Eyes; and it is to Worship God with all our heart.

Matthew 22:37 ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

When Jesus told Satan to get thee behind me, He was saying to everything get behind me because I must Love and Worship God with all my heart.

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Matthew 6:33 ³³ **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

We don't need to love the things of this World, we just need to Love and Worship God, and He will give us the things of His Heart.

Psalms 37:4 ⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

III. The Crossroad of Pride or Humility

Luke 4:9-12 ⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: ¹⁰ For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: ¹¹ And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, **It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

1 John 2:16 ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, **and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

This temptation is at the crossroads of Pride Street and Humility Road.

It determines if you will be led down the Path of Destruction or the Path of Destiny.

Proverbs 16:18 ¹⁸ Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12 ¹² Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour *is* humility.

Too many people have allowed their pride to destroy their purpose; But Humility always leads to the Destiny God has for your life.

But God has a Plan for the Pride of Life; and it is to Humble ourselves and let Him exalt us.

1 Peter 5:5-6 ⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

- Pride demands, but Humility gives
- Pride is pushy, but Humility waits
- Pride defends, but Humility holds its peace
- Pride fights back, but Humility exalts

Galatians 6:9 ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Isaiah 40:31 ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

2 Chronicles 20:15 ¹⁵ ... Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.

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Isaiah 54:17 ¹⁷No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: A Plan For Your Temptations (The Crossroads of Life))

Lesson Text

- Luke 4:3–13, 1 John 2:15–17

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Crossroad of Gratification or Fulfillment*

II. *The Crossroad of Desires or Worship*

III. *The Crossroad of Pride or Humility*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If you could have one thing delivered to you everyday, what would it be?
2. You are the creator of a new car line... would it be a luxury or sports car line? What would you name it?

II. Into the Bible

1. Study James 1:2, 12-16. Answer the following:
 - (a) The word “temptations” in verse 2 is used to mean something different from what is described as “temptation” in verses 12-16. What are the differences?
 - (b) According to James 1:14-15, what is the origin of a temptation to sin?
2. Read Genesis 3:1-5, which describes Eve’s conversation with the serpent. Based on the last two Sunday sermons, explain whether you think this was a trial of Eve’s faith or a temptation and why.

III. Life Application

1. Which of these crossroads has your temptation been located:
 - Gratification Boulevard and Fulfillment Avenue
 - Desire Highway and Worship Parkway
 - Pride Street and Humility Road

Why did you choose this crossroad?

When you come to this particular crossroad in the future, what action will you take to determine the direction you will take?