

The Blame Game

Text : **James 1; 12-18 ; Genesis 3; 1-8**

A. We've all sinned. What is the greatest sin you ever committed ?

S#1.
S#2.

1. Why did you do it ?
2. Did you do it as part of a group ?
3. Did do it in response or reaction to someone else ?

B. What did you say when your sin was discovered ?

1. Did you own your sin, apologize, and repent ?
2. Did you have a reason or make an excuse ?
3. Did you blame someone for causing it ?

C. All through history people have tried to blame others for their mistakes.

S#3.

1. Thesis #1 : No one can blame God for any sin he commits.
2. Thesis #2 : No one can blame anyone else for any sin that he commits.

I. God has never and will never tempt anyone to commit sin.

S#4.

James 1: 13 – Let no one say when he is tempted, " I am being tempted by God";
for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

S#5.
S#6.

A. God hates sin so He would not solicit the commitment of that which he hates.

1. God literally hates evil.
 - a. **Psa. 5: 4-6** For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;
No evil dwells with You. **5** The boastful shall not stand before Your
eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. **6** You destroy those who speak
falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.
 - b. **Psa. 11: 5** – The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked,
And the one who loves violence His soul hates.

S#7.

2. The wrath of God will come on all evil.

Col. 3: 5-6 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead
to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which
amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the
wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

S#8.

B. It is God's eternal desire that men will turn from sin and be saved from it.

S#9.

1. **II Pet. 2: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count
slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any
to perish but for all to come to repentance.

S#10.

2. God wants for everyone to be saved.

I Tim. 2: 5 – This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **S#11.**
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

3. God has always been totally committed to saving people from sin.

a. **I Pet. 1: 20** – He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead ...

b. **John 3: 16-17** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. **S#12.**

C. Thus, it would be totally illogical for God to tempt anyone to sin. **S#13.**

1. God hates sin; so He would not prod anyone to do what He despises.
2. God persuades people to turn from sin and follow Him, He wouldn't do the opposite.
3. God was incarnated in flesh and sacrificed Himself on a cross to save man from sin.

II. No one can make another person sin, each one sins because he wants to. **S#14.**

A. Every sin is the product of a person's own desires. **S#15.**

1. The formula for temptation is given by James in our text.

a. **James 1: 14-15** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

b. One's mind is inseminated by his/her desire for something.

c. One dwells upon that desire long enough for the desire to gestate forming lust.

d. If that desire isn't aborted it becomes lust resulting in the birth of death, i.e, of sin

2. The Apostle John warns us about the same thing.

a. **I John 2: 15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone **S#16.** 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (*All earthly desires are temporary*)

b. Living in and with the world, it is easy to develop a desire, a love for its fruits.

c. One's physical body (his flesh) has desires.

- 1) Instinctive desire to procreate
- 2) Food and drink
- 3) Acceptance and companionship and for position in the group

3. Our eyes see things that are desirable to possess and we want them.
4. The desire to be esteemed in the eyes of others is natural, but can lead to sin.
- * 5. BASICALLY, God is telling us that we must achieve mastery over ourselves.

S#17.

B. Temptation to sin transpires the same way as it has since the beginning of time.

1. Adam and Eve were tempted after the pattern of **I John 2 and James 1.** S#18.
 - a. **Gen. 3: 6** – **When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**
 - b. Desire (lust) of the eye ... **it was a delight to the eyes**
 - c. Desire (lust) of the flesh ... **saw that the tree was good for food**
 - d. Pride of life ... **was desirable to make one wise**
2. Jesus was tempted after the pattern of **I John 2 and James 1 ... Luke 4: 1-10**
 - a. Desire of the flesh ... **tell this stone to become bread**
 - b. Desire of the eye ... **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world (many implications)**
 - c. Pride of life eye ... **(demonstrate power) Throw Yourself down from here**
3. Every day you and I are tempted after the pattern of **I John 2 and James 1.**

C. Satan tempts us to sin in the same way we catch fish.

S#19.

1. **“carried away”** (*exelko*) 1 to draw out. 2 metaph. lure forth: in hunting and fishing as game is lured from its hiding place, .. (*Strong's*)
2. **“enticed”** (*deleazo*) 1 to bait, catch by a bait. 2 metaph. to beguile by blishments, allure, entice, deceive. (*ibid*)
3. Though he changes the bait, Satan consistently uses the same process.
 - a. He presents a bait that will appeal to YOUR eyes. ***Different bait for every person.***
 - b. He creates within you a desire to have the bait. ***Desire is a function of the flesh.***
 - c. He provides a rationale for taking the bait. ***Deciding to sin is a function of the mind.***

D. Regardless of the bait or the sin, Satan applies this same formula to every sin.

1. It could be a temptation for a diabetic to buy pie.
 - a. While meeting for coffee you are attracted to an advertisement for pie on the table.
 - b. You know that restaurant serves delicious pie.
 - c. You decide it would please the person you are meeting with to buy him pie.
2. It would apply equally to buying a car, telling someone off or starting an affair.

III. People have always attempted to escape responsibility for their failures. S#20.**A. We play the blame game. S#21.**

1. Some blame their **circumstances**.
 - a. If I had not been so poor I would not have become a thief.
 - b. If I didn't have to live in such a bad neighborhood I would not be an addict.
 - c. If I had been more attractive I would not have had to be so promiscuous.
2. Some blame their **friends**.
 - a. I didn't really want to vandalize all those mailboxes, but they were all doing it.
 - b. We went to the party and everyone was drinking. What was I to do ?
 - c. I was mad; if he hadn't been so mean to me I wouldn't have said those things.
3. Some blame their **family**.
 - a. My parents neglected me so I got involved with a bad crowd.
 - b. I'm this way because my parents were too strict.
 - c. I would not have had an affair if my husband had been more attentive.
4. Many people blame **God. (Adam and Eve)**
 - a. If God had not put me in these circumstances, my life would have not been sinful.
 - b. It's hereditary; everyone in my family is an alcoholic, short tempered, lazy, etc.
 - c. I was born in the wrong body; I should have been a woman/man.
 - 1) No one is born sinful. Homosexuality is a choice from which one can repent.
 - 2) Child molesters claim to be born that way.
 - 3) I can't control it; I was born a schizophrenic. (*Everyone is tempted by something.*)

B. Sin is a personal choice S#22.

1. Years ago a mischievous comic made a fortune saying, "*The devil made me do it.*"
 - a. The devil is more powerful than any man, but he cannot force man to do anything.
 - b. God will not permit Satan to overwhelm anyone.

I Cor. 10: 13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
 - c. In every temptation God is the referee guaranteeing you a fair chance.

*** Satan is not allowed to fish with dynamite; he must use bait.**
2. Any time YOU sin it is because YOU choose to do so. **You take Satan's bait.**

IV. We all fight the battle against sin every day and sometimes we lose.**S#23.****A. We will never mature to the point that we are beyond temptation.****S#24.**

1. Jesus understood that men are easily tempted because we dwell in flesh.

Mark 14: 38 – Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

S#25.

2. Satan tempted Jesus while He was in flesh. (Vs. **13** .. *God cannot be tempted.*)

3. The Apostle Paul struggled to overcome his flesh.

Rom. 7: 18 – For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

- * 4. *God warned us never to take temptation lightly.*

S#26.

I Cor. 10: 12 – Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

B. It is not sinful to be tempted if we do not allow it to become lust.**S#27.**

1. Bro. James concedes that all men are tempted.

James 1: 14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

S#28.

2. Jesus was tempted, but did not sin.

Heb. 4: 13 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

3. The temptations of Jesus are held up as an advantageous thing.

Heb. 2: 18 – For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

S#29.**C. Every morning when we get out of bed we're at war with Satan, even in dreams.**

1. **Eph. 6: 11-12** – Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not

S#30.

against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. The Lord provided us with all we need to be victorious, but we must use it.

a. “Put on” any soldier must become proficient with his equipment.

b. **Eph. 6: 13-18** ... We fight a spiritual battle with spiritual tools.

- 1) Truth

- 2) Righteousness

- 3) Preparation of the gospel

- 4) Faith in God, in Christ and in salvation ... accompanies by prayer

D. Jesus was in flesh; how was He able to overcome every temptation?

1. He was tempted every day just like we are. *He dwelt in flesh so it had desires.*
2. He did not allow fleshly desires to become lust.
 - * **We can't stop birds from flying over our head,** S#31.
but we don't have let them build a nest in our hair. (cf – Col. 3: 1-3, Rm 8: 5-6)
3. He had no desire to sin because He was totally committed to God. (*mindset*)
4. Commitment involves a surrender of one's self.
 - a. **Mark 8: 35-36** whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever S#32.
 loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ "For what
 does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?
 - b. **Rom. 12: 1-2** I urge you, brethren, ..., to present your bodies a living and S#33.
 holy sacrifice , ... ² And do not be conformed to this world,
 but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (*change values*)
 - c. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live,
 but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh
 I live by faith in the Son of God, ... S#34.
- * **The point is** ... *total surrender to Christ (to God) is the key to overcoming temptation.*

CONCLUSION :

- A. You are tempted every day ... admit it ... deal with it. S#35.
S#36.
- B. Every soldier loses some battles and so will you. Accept your sin and repent of it.
 1. Don't blame God for temptations and don't blame Him for your failures.
 2. You sinned only because you decided to do so.
 3. Don't submit yourself to unnecessary temptations.
 - Rom. 13: 13-14** Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and S#37.
 drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife
 and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no
provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

**** There are some appealing people, places and things we must avoid.**

INVITATION :

- A. If you have not yet surrendered your life to Christ, now is the time to do so. S#38.
- B. If you have strayed, you chose to do so you can choose to return .. He will forgive.

S#39. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Genesis 3: 1-8**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

James 1: 12-18

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. **18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.