

Temptation, Betrayal & Rejection – God’s percolator to develop divine love into our characters.

On November 26th Rev. Lane Vannatta preached on the three methods of temptation. The choice for me this evening was either teach on the wise men and Numbers 24:17 the promise of “there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel.” This would have been informative, in season and no problem in delivery or in receiving of this word.

However, the burden remained on my heart to discuss with you tonight the subjects of temptation, betrayal & rejection.

THE CHRISTIAN PERCOLATOR

**2PETER 1:4-8 “through which He has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, so that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
5 But also in this very thing, bringing in all diligence, filling out your faith with virtue, and with virtue, knowledge;
6 and knowledge with self-control, and with self-control, patience, and with patience. godliness,
7 and with godliness, brotherly kindness, and with brotherly kindness, love.
8 For if these things are in you and abound, you shall not be idle nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

THE CHRISTIAN PERCOLATOR

2Peter 1:5-7 “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (arete – excellence-no less standard at our workplaces as well as in the church assembly), to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness (Philadelphia), and to brotherly kindness love (agape).”

Regarding perseverance we must run a marathon not a 100-meter sprint.

One of many examples of self-control: James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”

Perseverance – oftentimes this perseverance is the very test that the Holy Spirit will employ. If you are willing, ask and it shall be given to you.

When I was in Physical Therapy after my back operation, I was instructed to walk in fast steps against the resistance from the water in the pool. Later they would use weight machines that require you to move against the resistance.

In order to perfect godly love in our character I believe that God putting us in situations in which we will be tempted, rejected and betrayed. Jesus is our example: 1Peter 2:21 **“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:”**

The Apostle Peter says this: **1 Peter 4:12 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”**

When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, God floods our hearts with His love so much:

Romans 5:5 “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

However divine love is not perfected in us until our Father puts us through the percolator. A percolator produces **real coffee, not instant coffee**, by forcing water through a stem through the application of **heat & pressure**. These same two elements, heat & pressure, change over time a **lump of coal into a diamond**. This is a process that leads us into God’s love so that it flows out of our hearts and is expressed in our lives.

1John 2:5-6 “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

Keeping God’s Word by obedience is the way to tell Jesus that we love Him. The Word of God, received in faith will **perfect us** in the love of God.

1Peter 1:7 “That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might **be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.**”

Jesus is our pattern and our example.

Acts 1:1 “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus **began both to do and to teach.**” Even though the Holy Spirit authored the Scriptures, He is careful to be sure that the human agency He uses has faced the very conditions he writes about that. King David wrote about betrayal & rejection, having faced betrayal and rejection from his own son, **Absalom** and one of his chief counselors, **Ahithophel (2Samuel 15:12-13)**

Those who teach God’s Word must be those who have done it, will be doing it or both.

(Another warning about Teaching of God’s Word – Brother from Toledo who told us: when you judge, judge in God’s permissive will. When you teach, teach God’s perfect will. Never get these confused or else you will become harsh hard-hearted judges and teachers of sin and licentiousness.)

The Temptation of Jesus

1John 2:15-16 describes the three ways we can be tempted. We will consider how Eve dealt with each then failed. We will then see Jesus using the Sword of the Spirit referred to in Ephesians 6:17

Satan causes doubt & disbelief in God’s Word –

Gen 3:1 “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, `You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (doubt in God’s Word)

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

"but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, `You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." (Denial of God’s Word).

2 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes (Hebrew ayin meaning "eye" singular) will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." (Disobedience to God's Word)

Jesus facing Satan in the wilderness:

Matt 4:1-3

1. "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
- 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Ephesians 6:17 calls the Word of God the Sword of the Spirit. Now let us watch Jesus in all three ways of temptation and how He uses the sword.

Matt 4:4

Deut 8:3

"But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'""

2) Matt 4:6-7 and (Satan) said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: `He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, `In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

Deut 6:16 Descending from the pinnacle of the Temple in the presence of the Levitical priests would have given Jesus the easy way to proclaim that the Messiah has come pointing to Himself.

Matt 4:7 "Jesus said to him, "It is written again, `You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

3) Matt 4:8 “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.”

9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus did not question Satan’s ownership of the kingdoms of the world at that time since Adam turned over dominion over the earth to Satan in his sin.

Matt 4:10

Deut 6:13, 10:20

If Jesus would have given worship to Satan, all the kingdoms of the earth would belong to the Messiah as prophesied in Psalm 2. If Jesus had yielded, He would have the easy way; **no sufferings, no crucifixion, no rejection. There would have been no sacrifice at the cross, no blood atonement for our sins and no hope for our salvation.**

“Then said Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall you serve.”

When you are involved in serving the Body of Christ, you will usually be tested by chances to deny yourself in order to serve others. You will voluntarily put your brothers and sisters before yourself As you serve them. One prerequisite for Christian service is denial of self just as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed “Father, not my will but your will be done. If Jesus did this, then we are also to do it. Those of you here tonight who are involved in serving the saints understand self-denial.

We are given the opportunity to do in small ways what Jesus did on a greater scale.

John 12:25-26 “25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

Betrayal and rejection are two common root causes why some people turn away and guard their hearts so that they will not be hurt again. It is only natural for us to avoid embarrassment, fearing what others may think of us. For some people this fear is strong enough to be an obstacle to receiving Jesus’ salvation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Personal note on the 3rd prayer meeting that I attended. I had not then been baptized in the Holy Spirit, however I was waiting earnestly for this. During this 3rd prayer meeting, a missionary visited our group and showed pictures of his mission field in Africa. There, when the people rejoice, they perform a customary dance, which, to me looked rather foolish. Then the missionary said to us that he was going to take up a collection, however he would receive it only if we approached the donation plate as “cheerful givers”. He told us that **‘cheerful’ in the Greek was “hilaros” from which we get our word “hilarious” (2COR 9:7).** For me at that time, this was the most embarrassing thing I had encountered in the Christian life. I looked up to heaven, closed my eyes, and said “Jesus, I love you this much” then proceeded to dance the way the movie clip portrayed and was able to donate something to this man’s ministry. I would have gladly put double the donation into the basket to avoid doing this silly dance. However, I would have missed something that Jesus wanted from me; a test of my heart in order to see if I would yield to the fear of embarrassment out of love for Him. The collection was not the main issue that the Holy Spirit wanted from me. He wanted me to express my dedication even if it meant becoming embarrassed.

Fear of the opinion of others actually serves as an obstacle for many who might want to receive Jesus as Savior. We can see this in John 12: 42-43 *“Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;” for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

B.) Betrayal of Jesus

Psalm 41:9 “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”

The Holy Spirit never had to make this prophetic utterance regarding Jesus. However, He did. Betrayal is an example of that which Jesus did before the Word of God teaches us how to deal with it.

John 6:70-71 “Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (Diabolos – singular is devil. Daemon means demon, usually plural. Daemonian)

Connotes demon of lesser power). He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.”

Why would Jesus select as an Apostle that He knew would betray Him? Jesus, as our pattern did what He teaches precisely because He is our example, our pattern. Even in the Garden of Gethsemene Jesus calls Jesus never turned away His love even when He was betrayed and rejected. Even at the moment of His betrayal, Jesus said **Matthew 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come?**

Remember who it was that determined Jesus' death.

John 10:18 “No man takes (my life) from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”

Jesus' enemies plan:

Matt 26:4-5 “and *plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.*

But they said, "*Not during the feast*, lest there be an uproar among the people." Which one was right, those who planned to kill Jesus or Jesus who decided when and how He would die?

Rejection of Jesus

Jesus' first thoughts on the cross were not for Himself but for the people who put Him there. Jesus never turned away His love choosing rather to pray for His persecutors by crying out “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. (Matt 26:42, Luke 23:34, Mark 14:36) He did this despite the terrible pain He was in.

Jesus had been rejected by the religious leadership and by the people who chose Barabbas to be released rather than Jesus.

Rejection in our lives is often the root cause of many other problems we face in the Christian life. When we encounter and identify root causes, then it enables us to do something about having that root removed. Matt 3:10 shows John the Baptist saying to the Pharisees (MATT 3:10 ““And even now the ax is laid to the root (Latin: radux, from which we get our word “radical”) of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”). Too often we will seek to cover up the roots rather than to deal with them. In surgery, whether it is removal of a foreign

substance from our bodies such as the removal of shrapnel from the body of the soldier, the object has to be found (with the doctor's probe), then removed with forceps, then dressed with bandages. When the probe and the forceps are used and touch the problem area, a person will react with sudden pain confirming to the doctor that the probe hit the correct area. That is what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives – to deal with the roots rather than simply cutting down a few twigs and branches.

Overcoming rejection means that you must identify it in your own life, make a decision in the Name of Jesus to forgive that person who rejected you and be loosed from that bondage of the past. Of all of the rejections that can happen in a person's life, the rejection by a parent, especially the father, is very common in families today. Young people struggling to gain their father's acceptance which they know they don't have. I am not just speaking about unbelieving fathers. Fathers in the Christian faith have also fallen prey to this cycle – rejection by your father will generally be expressed through the same man to his children. All children are born with the need of parental love from their mothers and fathers. Today many young adults are carrying around the burden of rejection and unforgiveness toward a parent who might not deserve to be forgiven in the natural sense.

Many Christian men, many Christian fathers, have not stepped up to the level of being the spiritual head of your home. Also many Christians were neither committed nor active in our own churches. Think about this for a moment:

If Christian men had taken the spiritual lead in their own home and to serve the saints with wherever spiritual gifts and calling, there would be no reason for Promise Keepers.

Precisely due to the failure of us men in these area, the home and the church, Promise Keepers was needed. Oftentimes Christian parents, and particularly fathers, who have either been rejected by their own parents or believe that they never received the love and acceptance from their fathers end up unknowingly doing the same thing to their children.

Most agonizing point in Jesus' sufferings at the cross were the worst when He cried out Eli, Eli lama sabacthani?" (MATT 27:46, PSA 22:1). In the ninth and last hour Jesus, our High Priest, said "It is

finished!”(John 19:30) I believe that at point, our Father’s heart was broken and Jesus’ heart was also broken. The veil in the door to the Holy of Holies was rent in two from top to bottom. This opened access to God by men and also signified the broken hearts of our Father and of our Lord Jesus – this was the only time in eternity when the cries of the Son fell on deaf ears of our Father who cannot look upon sin.

Jesus became sin with our sinfulness at the cross so that we might receive Jesus’ righteousness. Jesus received stripes on His back that we might have His health. Jesus was totally rejected by the Father at the ninth hour that we might receive His acceptance from our Father. When Jesus took upon himself all of our sins, iniquities, sickness, disease and bondage that we might have Jesus’ holiness, health and freedom in God’s Holy Spirit.

The goal of the God’s percolator in our lives is that of achieving a deep settled and consistent Christian love.

1) 1COR 13:4-6

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...” 1John 4:18 will block fear!

2) Unconfessed sin will block us from appropriating those things that Jesus provided to us at the cross-our promise of forgiveness 1John 1:9. **God forgets our sins when He forgives us ISA 43:25, Hebrews 10:17**

3) Bitterness & Resentment:

One thing can stand in our way; bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness. Matt 6:15 “but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matt 18:34-35 And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors...

35 So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also to you, unless each one of you from your hearts forgive his brother their trespasses.”

If you think God will not turn you over to your tormentors, think again. How often did God turn the children of Israel over to the Philistines when they sinned and departed from Him?

In prayer I would pray that the Holy Spirit would touch each of you. For those of you who have suffered betrayal and / or rejection I pray that the Holy Spirit will call to your minds and hearts those people who have hurt us or rejected us that we might specifically forgive each of them.

Thank you for listening to me and for receiving me tonight. This night is most special to me. 25 years ago on this date at 7pm, I gave my heart & life to Jesus and received Him as my Lord & Saviour. Tonight all of you gave me the opportunity to tell Jesus I love Him with action, not just with words. I am indebted to each of you tonight.

Walk in the grace of the Holy Spirit, & may the peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. AMEN!

1. Faith

2. Virtue (Greek: arete meaning moral excellence)

3. Knowledge

4. Self-Control

5. Patience

6. Godliness

7. Brotherly Kindness (philadelphia)

8. Love (Agape) 2PETER 1:4-8

GALATIANS 5:17

THE HOLY SPIRIT

AT WAR WITH THE FLESH

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

NKJV

1JOHN 2:16

The FATHER Opposes the World

“...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him

For all that is in the world:

1. The Lust of the Flesh

2. The Lust of the eyes

3. The sinful pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world”

GENESIS 3:1-6 Eve's Temptation

1. **DOUBT:** "Gen 3:1 "Is it so that God has said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

2. **DENIAL:** Gen 3:4 "And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,"

3. **DISOBEDIENCE:** Gen 3:6 "she took of its fruit, and ate."

GENESIS 3:1-6 EVE FAILS

1. The Lust of the Flesh

Gen 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food...”

2. The Lust of the eyes

Gen 3:6 “it was pleasing to the eyes,

3. The sinful pride of life

Gen 3:6 “a tree to be desired to make wise”

Matthew 4:1-10

The Temptations of JESUS

1. The Lust of the Flesh

Matt 4:4 quote from Deut 8:3

2. The Lust of the eyes

Matt 4:7 quote from Deut 6:16

3. The sinful pride of life

**Matt 4:10 quote from Deut 6:13,
10:20**

BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

Word of God

Blood of Jesus

Word of our Testimony

EPHESIANS 6:17

REVELATION 12:11

THE BETRAYER IN PROPHECY:

Psalm 41:9 “Even a man, my friend, in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

John 6:70-71 “Jesus answered them, Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? And one of you is a devil?

But he spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon; for it was he who was about to betray Him, being one of the Twelve.”

The Response to Betrayal

Matt 26:50 “ And Jesus said unto him, **Friend, wherefore art thou come?** Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.”

Jesus' response to those who had rejected Him.

These were the first words of our Lord Jesus on the cross in the midst of His pain and torment.

Luke 23:34 “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

Three Exchanges Made at the Cross

A. 1Peter 2:24 “He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that dying to sins, (1)we might live to righteousness; (2)by whose stripes you were healed.”

B. Jesus became rejected on the cross that (3) we might have His acceptance.

Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Matthew 6:15 “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matt 18: 34-35 “And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also to you, unless each one of you from your hearts forgive his brother their trespasses.”

THE WORD OF GOD

**When the child of God looks
into the Word of God**

And sees the Son of God

He is changed by the Spirit of God

Into the Image of God

For the Glory of God