

## TEMPTATION COMES TO EVERYONE

### Mark 14:38

**Introduction:** One thing that everyone encounters sooner or later and often is temptation. It comes unexpectedly, and sometimes overwhelmingly and it is so hard to fight it, to resist it and sadly, it is yielded to bringing unhealthy results. When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane praying the night He was taken by the soldiers, His disciples were with Him, but they were aside from Him, asleep. Jesus woke them and said, *"... Watch ye, and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak..."*

### I. EVERY HUMAN BEING IS WEAK WHEN TEMPTATIONS COME

1. What is weaker than people? True, the spirit (inside) is willing and most had rather do the right thing, thinking that they will always do it and to tell someone that he/she will give in and do what he/she is tempted to do will be denied, "NO, I won't!" but they do yield, they do give in to that temptation. *"...The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak..."*
2. Who would have thought that any of the Disciples would yield to temptation?
  - The "inner circle," the three that were always with Jesus: Peter, James and John, would surely remain strong and unyielding to anything they might be tempted with that would cause them to become unfaithful to Jesus.
  - They were tired, so they "took a nap" while Jesus prayed.
  - Peter, the spokesman of the twelve was going to deny three times that very night that he even knew the Lord Jesus, cursing and swearing.
  - John and James along with the others would run away when Jesus was taken captive, all left Him.
  - They had bragged about their faithfulness to Jesus, but they were weak.
  - There has never been a person who walked this earth who has not fallen sometime in his/her life except the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. There is no one beyond the reach of Satan, the great tempter.
  - Life runs smoothly for a while, but sooner or later, Satan will slip in and try something.
  - The disciples were going to be tempted the night Jesus was taken captive in ways as never before and when that tempting, testing came, they all failed, they fell, they ran.
    - *"... Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation, for the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak..."*
4. Jesus spoke of temptation in His parable of the sower.
  - *"...They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy, and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation, fall away..." (Luke 8:13)*
  - Build a house on a rock, but planting is to be done in fertile ground.
  - Every person has started something out right but somewhere along the way, something happened and they stopped. What happened? They fell in the "hour of temptation."

## II. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A SHOWY THING

1. In parades, there is the color guard, a man carrying the flag, a man on each side of the flag with a rifle on his shoulder or a pistol at his side, a band playing behind them, very beautiful, very moving, but when the parade has gone by, it is gone, nothing has been left, just a show.
  - There are some Christians like a parade, all show and sound, but nothing really effective happens and when they have moved on, nothing has changed.
  - As long as Lot was with Abraham, all was right, but when he left Abraham and went out on his own, going to Sodom, he fell into temptation and was changed.
  - Some Christians don't seem to be able to stand on their own and have to be held up by a stronger person than they are for they have no resistance to temptations.
  
2. During the days of raiding castles in Scotland, it is said that of all the castles there one just could not be taken until the enemy sneaked up one side of the walls where there were sharp, steep rocks piled up and the guards thought that area was safe, so they didn't guard it. The castle was captured.
  - Temptation very often comes in an unexpected form from an unexpected way.
  
3. Jesus said, **"...Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed, lest he should fall..."**
  - Nobody on earth is beyond the reach of Satan, the great tempter.
  - Satan will follow everyone from their cradle to their grave and the closer a person gets to the Lord Jesus, the more temptations Satan will bring, offer.
    - When Satan wanted one of the disciples to sell out the Lord, he went to the treasurer. (Judas)
    - When Satan wanted one of the disciples to deny knowing Jesus, he went to the most outspoken one. (Peter)
    - When Satan wanted to call fire down from heaven on some Samaritans who had refused to help the disciples, he went to the one closest to the heart of Jesus. (John)
  - There were some angels in heaven who were tempted by Satan and they yielded and fell.
  - Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan in the garden and they yielded and fell.
  
4. No Christian has his/her own special temptation.
  - **"...There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it..."**

## CONCLUSION:

1. Satan is going to try to get everyone to yield to his temptations, especially Christians.
2. Everybody is tempted throughout his/her lifetime and yields to temptations.
3. God enables Christians to get through temptations without yielding, IF/WHEN they call upon Him.
4. Nobody has some special kind of temptation, custom made for him/her, but is common to everyone.