THE TRUTH ABOUT TEMPTATION

“Who Is To Blame?”

Genesis 3:1-13, James 1:13

1. BLAME …THE REALITY IN TEMPTATION.

What do you do when you are faced with temptation? The reality is, our “default” nature when it comes to any type of temptation is to “blame” someone else for the temptation that we are undergoing. Whether that temptation be in the area of coveting, lust, sex, money or any other avenue. The sobering truth of Scripture is this… your default nature is to “find someone or something to blame”.

In the very opening pages of Scripture, Adam and Eve were in the most beautiful, and lush garden in all the world, the Garden of Eden. When you think of the word “garden” you may think of a small area, but the Garden of Eden was abundant in size, beauty, and the very best that God provided. Yet, in the very midst of that Garden, Adam and Eve were tempted, and with their caving in to the temptation…their lives came spiraling down. Here is the reality of the very first human couple on the earth…when placed in the middle of temptation, and surrendering to temptation, their first role was to blame one another. The Bible declares in Genesis 3:12, “And the man said, the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”. Not only did Adam blame Eve, but in essence Adam said, “Lord, it was you that gave her to me”.

Adam, when tempted and after surrendering to temptation: First, dodged personal responsibility. Second, chose to blame his temptation on another. Third, chose to even blame God. After all if God hadn’t given Adam a wife, then he may well have thought… “I wouldn’t be in this predicament. Here is the sobering reality behind every temptation that you will face in your lifetime.

First, you will be tempted to dodge any personal responsibility. The sad and sobering reality of the world we live in is this…person after person is dodging personal responsibility and blaming others…and is missing out on the freedom that God could bring and would bring into their lives if they would simply “be honest”, and “come clean” before a God that loved them and wanted to deliver them.

Second, when temptation comes, it is most likely that we blame those we love the most. That was the very case in the life of Adam. The one that God gave him to love, honor and cherish was the one that he chose to blame. Only the Lord knows what temptations come by your life, but here is the reality of life…you are tempted to blame the people that God has put around you to love you the most. In the words of Adam, it was the very woman that “you gave me Lord”.

The very nature of temptation and surrendering to “sin” is to pass the buck to as many as possible for as long as possible. It began with the very first couple and it has been happening with each passing day, year, and century, thereafter. Satan has a goal behind “the blame game”. He never wants to see a person set free from any sinful habit or addition, and he knows this…as long as we blame others, we are never taking account of our lives and thus we can never know freedom.

Consider the life of an alcoholic for a moment. No alcoholic can ever recover without “taking ownership” of what he has done. He may admit he drinks, but he uses “stress”, “others”, “family”, as the ones to blame for his problem.

It is no accident that Satan lures us and deceives us into blame. He knows that “blaming” always prevents us from entering God’s best and it keeps us “in bondage”. All who are in bondage this day are those who have not yet “accepted responsibility and blame” for their personal sins.

Whenever a person is willing to take ownership of his decisions that have led to some type of sin, then that person “can” begin to experience victory. Whatever temptation that you face in life…there will be the trickery and the lies of Satan behind that temptation to lure you away from taking responsibility. Because Satan hates you and can’t stand for you to have any type of joy, happiness, tranquility and peace in your life.

2. BLAME…THE PATHS WE CHOOSE IN TEMPTATION.
From the very first chapters of the Bible, mankind has been choosing to blame someone else, rather than taking serious personal responsibility for his surrendering to temptation. And the truth of Scripture is that mankind has not changed and will not change in his approach to temptation. Sadly, many people whom God yearns to set free from “falling into temptation” will not be free because they consider their freedom “an impossibility” when it comes to God’s deliverance. Yet, the Bible makes it clear that, “For with God nothing shall be impossible”. Luke 1:37

The “blame game” has been played for centuries and continue until the Lord returns.

First, we blame our weakness in temptation on others. A person finds themselves in some area of temptation and falls, and the first action is to “blame” another person. A young person may blame his “falling behavior” on his home life, his parents, the pull of the opposite sex. Many people have fallen only to say, “If that person had not done….then I would not have caved in!” Yet, all blaming others never holds water before Holy God. Adam blamed Eve in Genesis 1.

Second, we blame our weakness in temptation on our personal design. Many people fall into temptation, by claiming “They simply are made that way!” A parent gives in to fits of rage, anger, declaring that they have been that way since childhood. A person claims he cannot remain sexually pure because of his personal design. The sobering truth of Scripture declares that God has given to all saints the ability to withstand temptation. God, never gives one Christian a right to cop out when it comes to temptation…because all Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ living within them, and the truth is Satan and all his artillery is no match for the Risen Christ. Paul put it this way, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil. 4:13)

Third, we blame our weakness in temptation on our environment. When a person lives blaming “friends”, “society”, “the world we live in”, then they are living with the “mental belief” that they can’t change until their environment changes. If that was so, then before there could be any freedom against temptation, all society would have to change. Sadly, many people will never know and experience freedom, because they are “waiting for society to change”. Yet nowhere in Scripture does the Lord ever declare that our temptations are the blame of society.

Fourth, we blame our weakness in temptation on God. Sin since Satan detests the Lord God and all who belong to God, he is going to lead us to “blame God” in times of weakness. Adam declared that he did what he did because of “the woman” that God gave him. In other words Adam is saying, “God you are partly responsible, after all You gave her to me!” The world is filled with people who are blaming God for: their lives, their problems, their marital situations, their financial situations and much more. Yet the truth is “absolutely no one forces us to make the decisions we make! We personally choose to make all the decisions we make in life! James says it this way when talking about our temptations and our surrendering to temptation. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.” (James 1:14) The truth of Scripture is that God cannot be tempted, neither does He tempt a single life.

Fifth, we blame our weakness in temptation on Satan. One of the most cunning tactics that we often hear is this, “The devil made me do it!” While on the surface that may seem accurate, the question must be asked, “If Satan could MAKE you fall, then why does he go through such effort to “tempt” and “lure” us with his enticing bait?” The truth is, Satan can dangle, luring attractive bait in front of our lives, but he is totally unable to “make us” sin. Sin is always a choice to disobey and disregard God, His Word, and His command. If Satan could “make us sin” then the entire temptation process is completely unnecessary. In Genesis, there is no picture of Satan hold Adam and Eve down and forcing them to eat apart from their free will. Quite the contrary! Eve was lured and fell into sin from temptation and Adam followed her. The decision was “their decision” and the consequences were also “their consequences”.

3. BLAME... OUR DEADLY ENEMY IN TEMPTATION.

Why in the world does Satan take such time and entice us to blame: others, our environment, family, or even God. Satan knows that as long as we live playing the “blame game” we will never experience freedom in any way. Sadly, many people are living today who could know and experience freedom, yet “blaming” keeps them listening to Satan’s lies, and following Satan’s lies. Many are still awaiting their world or family to
change...before they will take account of their lives. The truth of “blaming” is this...it robs us of experiencing the love of Holy God, and the warmth of His fellowship as well as His forgiveness.

When King David took ownership of his sins and his life in Psalms 51, then he found the kindness of God along with full and complete restoration that God alone could provide. It is the very goal of Satan to continually lie to us and deceive us into thinking that, “We can’t change!” or “Our lives can never be any better!” When that is not the truth of God’s Word at all! However, if you are living continually blaming and making excuses for your life, then there must come a time and come a day when you make the decision to, “stop blaming”. The truth is, we are all responsible for our own actions, our own decisions. No other person has made us make the decisions we have made in life. But, Satan will not quit his “lying and deceiving”. But we can stop listening to him. The truth of Scripture declares to all Christians, “Greater is He that is in You than he that is in the world.” It is in taking ownership and accepting personal blame that God brings about His victory.

When any person “accepts personal blame and responsibility for sin”, then and then alone can Holy God begin to rebuild, restore and reestablish his life. After lust, sexual sin, and finding himself at the bottom of life, King David realized that there was restoration for his life, and that same restoration is available to any person and every person that will follow the same path that David took. First, he realized that God was not out to hurt him but help him. Second, he owned up to his personal sins and acts of wickedness. Third, he asked Holy God for cleansing and forgiveness, Fourth, he admitted to himself and God his unholy deeds. Fifth, he took the path of honesty. Sixth, he asked Holy God for a new and clean heart. King David refused to “blame” and the end story was a man whose life came back from despair to wonderful victory. What path will you choose...the path of blame or the path of personal responsibility?