

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Text: James 1:13-15

Title: Lust's Lure and Death's Birth

*Proposition:* In James 1:13-15, James warns us against blaming God for our failure to persevere during trials; instead, he exposes our true enemy, the source of temptation. Four truths regarding temptation so that we will endure:

*Scriptures in parenthesis following each point are some possible cross-references.*

(Introduction: Genesis 22:1; 22:12; Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2; 8:16; Judges 2:21-23; 2 Chronicles 32:31; Job 11:1-12; Genesis 3:11-12; 1 Samuel 15:20-21)

**Truth 1: God is not the origin of our temptation (James 1:13).**

(Isaiah 6:1-3; Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 5:4; 11:4-7; John 15:5; Romans 6:8-11)

**Truth 2: Our lust is the origin of our temptation (James 1:14).**

(Mark 7:21-23; Genesis 6:5; Romans 8:7-8; Romans 6:17-18)

**Truth 3: Lust unresisted ends in sin (James 1:15a).**

(Proverbs 7:18-22)

**Truth 4: Sin unrepented of ends in death (James 1:15b).**

(Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9)

*Study Guide Questions:*

1. What theological reasons could someone give for why they think God is tempting them? How does James answer this accusation in James 1:13?
2. What are some of the similarities and differences between a trial and a temptation?
3. What are some sins in your life you need to cultivate God's hatred for?
4. In James 1:14, where does James say temptation comes from?
5. What is the difference between a good desire for a good thing and a sinful desire for a good thing? (When does a good desire become lust?)
6. Using the language of James 1:14, how does James explain the trickery of lust? Using that language, attempt to analyze a habitual sin pattern you've been struggling with.
7. In James 1:15a, James describes how lust results in sin. When does lust become sin? What are some ways to prevent lust from becoming sin?
8. How does the New Creature in Christ strengthen His new Christ-given desires? (You will almost always be desiring something.)

9. What is the end of sin? What kind of death is James speaking of? (Notice a parallel but positive progression in James 1:12.)
10. While James 1:12 is full of encouragement, why does James allow Verses 14-15 to end with such a warning? How would James want you to respond, as you face many trials?
11. As you review James 1:13-15, how does your thinking about God, sin and salvation need to change?
12. How does James 1:13-15 flow from James' instruction of how to respond to trials in vv.2-4 and v.12? How is James 1:13-15 thematically linked to James 1:5-7?