

**1 John 2:15-17 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read 1 John 2:15-17. Meditate on the phrase “Do not love the world or the things in the world.” What kind of love is the author writing about? What does this love for the world look like?

In verse 16, the author mentions three that are not from the Father but from the world. What are they? Can you think of an example of each? How have you experienced or been tempted by these three?

The author says that “the world is passing away along with its desires.” Not only is this true in an ultimate sense, but also in an everyday sense. What are some of the ways that things in this world pass away leaving us unsatisfied?

**Genesis 3:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read Genesis 3:1-7. In verse 6, what did the woman notice about the fruit before she took it? How does this relate to 1 John 2:15-17 which you read yesterday?

According to verse 6, where was the man while this was happening? Why do you think he said or did nothing? What can we learn from the man's inaction when our brothers or sisters are struggling with temptation?

Read verse 5 again. What is the core of the serpent's "sales pitch"? What lie was he spinning? How do we see this lie at work today?

**Matthew 4:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4** But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

**5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple **6** and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,”  
and

“On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

**7** Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.”

**11** Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read Matthew 4:1-11. What were the three temptations of Jesus that Matthew records? How do these temptations relate to 1 John 2:15-17 which you read on Monday?

Reflect on this passage in light of Genesis 3:1-7 from yesterday. What is the core lie that Satan is trying to spin in both passages?

How does Jesus respond to these temptations? What does this teach us about our own battles with temptation?

**Matthew 13:18-23 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**18** “Hear then the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. **20** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. **22** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. **23** As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read Matthew 13:18-23. Briefly and in your own words summarize the different types of soil and who they represent.

Think through your past relationship with Jesus and with the Gospel. Which types of soil have you been? Which type are you now?

Reflect on verse 22. How do the “cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches” choke out the word in someone’s heart? What happens to such a person? Can someone be “saved” but unfruitful? Why or why not?

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**1** For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, **3** and all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

**6** Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. **7** Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” **8** We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **9** We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, **10** nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. **11** Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. **12** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. In verses 1-5, Paul focuses on the fact that the people of Israel coming out of Egypt all had the same spiritual experiences (see Exodus and Numbers). Yet, they did not all respond to God appropriately. Reflect on this and what it means for the Church. Is it possible to be part of the church family but not truly part of Christ? Why or why not?

In verses 6-11, what sins did the people commit during their time in the wilderness? How are we tempted in the same way today?

In verse 13, what promise is made to us about temptation? What resources does God give us to help us fight temptation?