



**“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”  
– Matthew 4:3**

# The Danger of Lawful Temptations

Temptation Sunday

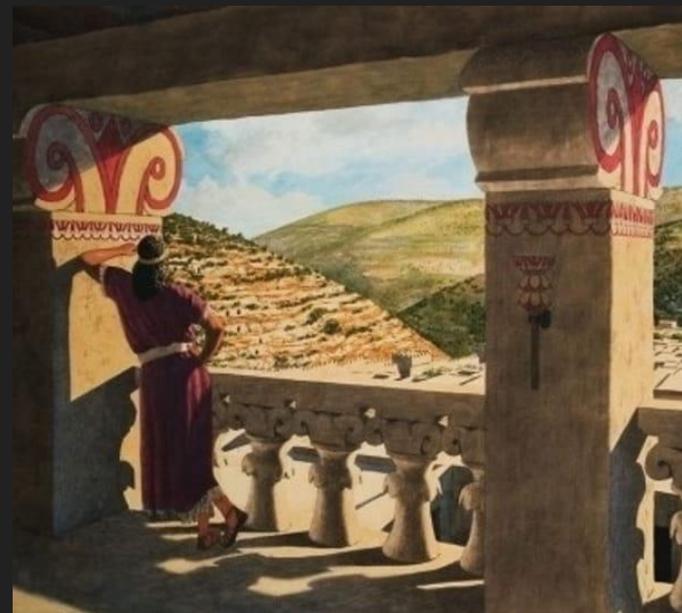
# Introduction

- “Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.” (Mk. 1:12-13)
- “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” (Matt. 4:3)
- Satan tempts us in ways that may seem lawful or harmless, but they may actually be fatal.



# King David

- “It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.” (2 Sam. 11:1)
- Danger: Being in the wrong place, at the wrong time



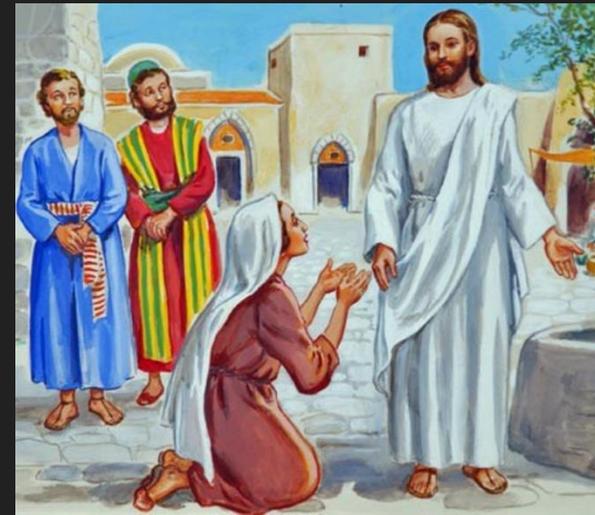
# King Saul

- So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And he offered the burnt offering.” (1 Sam. 13:9)
- Danger: Offering an unacceptable sacrifice or service
- Consider Cain



# The Sons of Zebedee

- “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” (Matt. 20:21)
- “...whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave...” (Matt. 20:26-27)
- Danger: Ambition
- “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit...” (Phil. 2:3)



# Safeguards

- “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1 Cor. 6:12)
- “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.” (1 Cor. 10:23)

# Safeguards

1. Is it helpful?
2. Is it controlling?
3. Does it edify?
4. Does it abide by the Law of Love?

# Safeguards

- “Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.” (Rom. 14:20-21)
- *“But if you yield to him, then he will love you and will not suspect you as a teacher, and afterward you will discover that you have gained the power of sowing in him the right views. But once he starts hating you, you have closed the door to reason. Do not compel him therefore, but refrain for his sake, not because the thing is unclean but because he is offended, and then he will love you all the more.” (St. John Chrysostom)*