

TITLE: James (Lesson 5)

TEXT: James 1:13-15

INTRO: "Flee also youthful lusts:" (2 Tim. 2:22a)

I. (vs. 13) What we need to know about *temptation*.

A. Temptations are going to happen.

NOTE: There's that word *when* again. We also saw it in verse 2.

B. The difference between a *trial* and a *temptation*.

NOTE: A trial is a testing of our faith to strengthen us and draw us closer to God. Temptation to sin comes to destroy our faith. In the Greek the same word is used for both. The context enables us to discern how it is used. Sometimes a difficult situation can be either a test or a temptation depending on how we respond to it. Consider Joseph. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Matt. 6:13, He said:

C. The temptations James is writing about do not come from God.

1. Don't blame God!

NOTE: Gen. 3:12 It's against God's nature to be tempted nor does He desire us to fail. Sometimes God allows temptation in order to protect us in the temptation. I Cor. 10:13

II. (vs. 14) The source of temptation.

A. Lustful desires.

NOTE: "drawn away of his own lust" refers to corrupt inward desires. John MacArthur writes: that the phrase *his own* "describes the individual nature of lust—it is different for each person as a result of inherited tendencies, environment, upbringing, and personal choices." See Rom. 7:14-25

B. The right bait.

NOTE: "enticed" is the external component of temptation. A good fisherman knows what, when, and where to dangle the bait, so does Satan. See I Pet. 5:8-9

C. The wrong choice.

III. (vs. 15) The result of temptation.

A. James illustrates sin as part of a process.

NOTE: It is likened to the process of physical conception and birth. When *lustful desires*, the *right bait* and the *wrong choice* come together sin is conceived. The resulting birth produces death!

B. Death.

1. Physically

NOTE: Prov. 14:12; I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16

2. Separated from God practically.

NOTE: Sin affects the believer's fellowship with God, not his position. John 10:28-29. Consider David in Ps. 32:3-4. Sin could be the death of your witness, reputation, etc.

CONCLUSION: Stop feeding our lustful desires. Run away from Satan's bait and make the right choices.