

appnotes

DAY 1 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

1

Anyone with an older sibling knows what it's like to learn from someone else's mistakes! That's the idea with today's passage. When it comes to being real, the Bible doesn't pull any punches. The old saints are authentically depicted, warts and all! Twice, Paul says that the stories in the Old Testament were written as examples so that we don't fall into the same lame temptations. And this lesson comes with a significant promise found in verse 13. First, everyone faces the same kinds of temptations. Don't believe for the second that you are the only one! Second, every temptation comes with a way out. That's God's promise to you. When you face a burning temptation, look for the exit signs to escape!

DAY 2 READ MATTHEW 5:21-30

2

When we let the ingredients simmer too long it ruins the treat. The same is true when it comes to sin in our lives. The longer we let the matter simmer, the greater the consequences. That's why Jesus had such strong words to say about what goes on in our hearts. Sin starts cooking in the heart with an inappropriate look or an angry attitude. The attitudes we leave unchecked become actions. But when we respond quickly we can avoid the mess that comes with falling into sin. That's why Job made a covenant with his eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman (Job 31:1). The best thing to do is to stop sin in the heart before it starts.

DAY 3 READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-18

3

Sometimes people surprise you. In today's passage, Paul mentioned two friends who surprised him. The first was Demas, a strong supporter and partner in Paul's ministry (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 1:24). But for some reason Demas drifted away. When Paul needed his help, Demas deserted him. The other companion was John Mark. Mark had been a part of Paul's first missionary journey but deserted the team (Acts 13:13). Eventually Mark regained Paul's trust and became an asset to Paul's ministry. Two deserters. One who started well, but finished poorly. Another who stumbled out of the gate, but finished strong. One brings a warning and the other brings hope. So what about you? How we start or stumble does not determine how we finish. Proverbs 24:16 says, "For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again."

DAY READ PROVERBS 7:1-27

4

Let's play a game called "What happens next?" You watch a scene and then we pause it and you guess what happens next. The scene is set in Proverbs 7, when a mature man looks out his window and sees a young man headed down the road. From his vantage point he notices that it is getting dark and there is a woman dressed to seduce with an alluring attitude to match. The older man can clearly see where this leads. What about you? Yes, you guessed it. She draws the young man in with a kiss and an offer of breathless pleasure. But when the day dawns the young man has lost his honor and is in for a world of pain. We are often blinded to where our behaviors are leading us. The truth is that we fall when we fail to see where our behavior is leading us.

DAY READ JAMES 1:13-18

5

Do you know the trick to catch a fish? Use the right bait. Do you know how to get someone to sin? Use the right bait. James wrote today's passage to help us stop sinning so much. When we stumble we are prone to point the finger at our upbringing, our circumstances, or even our God. The tough truth about why we sin is simply this: we sin because we want to sin. Satan dangles the lure in front of us promising pleasure, happiness, or simply relief. So we ignore the hooks and go for it. But sin doesn't satisfy; it stings. The moment of pleasure can bring a lifetime of pain. The way to overcome temptation is to spot the lie and speak the truth (see Matthew 4:1-11).

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

facebook.com/parkerhill.org