

James 1

In a series of sermons called, "Hard Times", part 9.

Hard times included all the Trials, difficulties, problems that we encounter in life.

Included in this batch of difficulties is sinful temptations.

The Solicitation to evil

I have entitled today's message, **The Sequence of Sin**

We need to know how sin operates. How it works?

We are all case studies for this.

James 1:13

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

James 1:13-16

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

The Sequence of Sin

James 1:14

But every man is tempted (seduced, solicitation of evil by the innate weakness of his own sinful nature),

when he is drawn away

Drawn away - the beginning step in temptation.(beyond the prescribed limits - 2 cookies,

does not stop at the limits of the law, and therefore guilty of transgression,

He is giving way to the evil propensity of his own heart,

Drawn away from safety, truth and virtue and right

of his own lust (inside of us, broad word - not just sexual, basic word - longings, forbidden desires,

dragged away like a fish out of the water by the hook which it had swallowed, the hook was concealed in the bait)

And enticed (pouring gas on to the fire) taken with the bait

(entrapped, deluded, deceived like the harlot that allures the man).

15

Then when lust hath conceived (impregnated, caught, gained traction), it bringeth forth sin:

The Sequence of sin

Lets read how this works,

Prov. 7:6-27 The perfect match to the teaching of our passage tonight.

6

For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

7

And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

8

Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

9

In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

10

And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

11

(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

12

Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

13

So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

14

I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

15

Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

16

I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

17

I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18

Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

19

For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:

20

He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

21

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

22

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

23

Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

24

Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

25

Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

26

For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

27

Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of **death**.

When sin is finished, it bringeth forth DEATH vs. 15

I John 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust of the flesh - this had to do with the desires of the flesh.

Gen. 3:6

And when the woman (Eve) saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Satan appealed and tempted Eve.

There was nothing wrong with the fruit or the desire to eat.

The command was, "Thou shalt not eat of it.

Her desire lined up with Satan's desire.

Lust of the eyes -

Gen. 3:6

And when the woman (Eve) saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Man constantly seeks to improve his surroundings or himself.

To have something that we do not possess.

The eyes of man are never satisfied.

Pride of Life

Appeal to the self worth, self acceptance, self preservation.

Self interest

Eve desired to make one wise

Gen. 3:6

And when the woman (Eve) saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

We can use one word to describe this - selfish.

God is withholding something from her was the lie that was used.

We fall into sin inwardly before the act is done outwardly.

The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life

They are inward characteristics of our sinful nature.

Eve was led along by her own heart desires.

Satan beguiled Eve.

He appealed to the freedom of the person, to the will of the person.

Satan lied to her.

She went for the forbidden fruit and shared it with her husband.

Satan had done his work of tempting, lying, of deceiving, of promising.

He had stoked the fire, He had caused the questions.

He then allowed Eve to do of her own free will, her own sinful choice.

Aided by Satan but totally on her.

We fall inwardly before we fall outwardly.

The hidden appetites, the hidden desires of our heart.

Within our hearts are seated many evil desires.

The fountain or the source of all temptation is in man himself.

I. Every man is tempted by his own lusts. vs. 14

Every person is tempted.

Our greatest tempter is our own inward desires.

Commercials appeal to the desires within us.

They work on our desires. They trigger something in us.

Never forget - Outside sources persuade us but inside forces are the dominant deciders.

Make no mistake about this, we are the source of our sin.

We all have a sinful nature.

We have within us, in the cracks and crevices and caves, Evil things that can come out of us.

Sin that is lurking that just takes a spark to begin that going astray, leading us down a dead end street.

The Bible teaches us that sin does not proceed from God but from the inner desires of men.

James 1:13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Our sinful nature exerts its seductive influence.

This is the answer to verse 13

Let no man say, I am tempted of God.

God tempteth no man.

The lust by which man is tempted is not of God.

It is of man. It is man's own lust.

All evil that is in man is his own.

We all are pushed along the avenue of sin by our own lusts.

And enticed - encouraged along by outside sources and inside sources.

It is not, **if** I am tempted but **when** I am tempted.

We all are tempted because we all have this drawing away mechanism inside of us.

"Drawn away of his own lust"

Called lust, it is an appetite for sin.

It is true that we can have external inducements but they would have no force on us if there was not something in us that corresponded, reacted, stirred

There can be no temptation unless something within us causes a sinful desire.

There is some inclination in us to evil, to sin.

We want to blame our environment, Eve could not do that.

We want to blame others.

Let us face it, we sin because we freely desire to sin. We choose to sin.

Jesus' basic command to us is to deny ourselves and take up our cross.

To Crucify ourself and our desires, inclinations,

Even a small child has the inclinations to rebel and to fulfill his or her own desires.

This is the internal sinful nature of all mankind.

Psalm 58:3

The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

1 Kings 8:46

If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,)

Sin is universally present in every person.

Ecc. 7:20

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We must admit the presence of sinful desires within us.

We are corrupt, the influence of sin extends to every part of man's nature.

Every culture and every country can attest to the evidence of sin in their citizens.

Is. 6:5

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

I Tim. 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Does anyone doubt the reality of sin?

Does anyone doubt the reality of sin in their own life?

Psalm 25:11

For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Is. 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Eph. 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Psalm 51:5 teaches us that we have this condition from conception.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

The Sin nature is not acquired during our living.

We have it from the very beginning. From Birth.

Everything about us is tainted by this sin nature.

The hindering and destroying force of sin that works inside of us as human beings.

Look at this sinful person

Proverbs 5:12-13

And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

13

And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

God gave many words in the Bible to describe sin.

To show us the different facets of sin, different sides of sin.

Many different words used for sin: 14 in the OT and 14 in the NT.

Rebellion, iniquity, transgression, unrighteousness

To Transgress or overstep, like going out of bounds
 Error through ignorance
 To Miss the mark
 to Wander or stray refusing to obey God's commands
 Active revolt
 To rebel
 Profane
 Apostasy
 Perverse act
 Treat wrongfully
 Evil
 Guilty
 Disobedience
 Unrighteousness

We have an inner disposition and state of the soul toward sin. Magnetism.

Sin is not limited to outside actions.

Sin is a part of our inner being.

Sin stems from man's wrong use of his free will.

We are not like animals.

We are made in the image of God but we have been marred by sin. Altered by sin.

But not to the level that every individual is wholly given over to the power of evil.

Mankind has deterrents to sin.

Including his own conscience

Spirit of God working in the world today convicting

Court system - prison system
 Law enforcement

Parental discipline

School rules

What happens when deterrents are removed?

We are attacking today our deterrents or trying to remove them.

We are lowering the
levels of laws or enforcement of laws.
levels of right and wrong
Levels of drugs
Levels of prosecution and penalties

Which green lights more bad behaviors, endangers our society

We lose freedoms, safety, common good.

Giving into the fleshly sinful desires, filling up the sinful desires of man does not cause them to Go away. It causes more sin.

Remove the deterrents and sin will fill the gap fast.

Mark 7:20-23

And he (Jesus) said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

It is our own lust.

All evil that is in man is his own.

The devil does not need to introduce them to us or bring them to us.

They are already in our hearts .

Satan and People can try to arouse them in us.

This is why we must avoid certain people, places and things.

Satan tempts us.

Matt. 4:3

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

I Thess. 3:5

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

The outside operations of the tempter however are not required to stir up the evil.

Satan seeks to draw man into sin and to destroy him.

Our lusts can do this work all by itself.
We are volunteer sinners.

My heart and my will have been in all the evil I have done.

It is all my own.

I have followed my own inclinations.

The true account is in verse 14: that every person is tempted to sin when he is drawn away/aside of his own lust and enticed.

The devil made us do it.

No, he did not, we did it.

God did not say, it was the Devil.

No one, including the devil, needs to introduce them to us.

They can work on their own.

God said, it is us!

It is our own lust.

The Sequence of Sin

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Our only source of victory over sin is Jesus Christ.

The only remedy for sin is the personal forgiveness obtained on the cross with the shedding of blood of the lamb of God Jesus Christ.

Gospel

The death of Christ was necessary

God opened the way for us.

Redemption was purchased

II Cor. 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Believers

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.