

56: TEMPTATION ON THE TRAIL: DON'T MISS THE ESCAPE

By John Leavy

In Week 12: Discipleship Under Pressure

3 Min read



“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.” — 1 Corinthians 10:13

Every man who spends time on the trail eventually encounters a place where the path divides. One route stays on course. The other looks easier, faster, or more interesting. Sometimes the wrong trail is obvious. More often, it isn't. The dangerous path often looks harmless at first.

Temptation works the same way.

One of the things rarely discussed is that temptation often feels reasonable before it becomes destructive. Most men do not wake up planning to compromise their integrity, neglect their families, or drift from God. They simply begin entertaining thoughts, desires,

or opportunities that seem small enough to manage. The trail changes gradually, not suddenly.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that no temptation has overtaken us except what is common to mankind. God is faithful, and He will provide a way of escape so we can endure it. Most men know that verse. What is often left unsaid is that the escape route is not always dramatic. It may be a quiet conviction, a friend's warning, a closed door, an unanswered text, or the simple opportunity to walk away.

The challenge is not that God fails to provide an escape. The challenge is that temptation often convinces us to keep walking when the exit is already in sight.

APPLICATION

Many men assume the battle against temptation begins when they are standing at the edge of failure. By then, they are usually farther down the trail than they realize. Temptation is rarely defeated in the final moment. It is usually defeated through dozens of smaller decisions made earlier.

A man who falls into temptation often ignores several exits before reaching the cliff. He dismisses conviction. He rationalizes compromise. He convinces himself he can handle the situation. He keeps walking even as warning signs become increasingly clear.

What often goes unmentioned is that God's escape route may require humility. Sometimes the exit is admitting weakness. Sometimes it is leaving the conversation, deleting the app, avoiding the situation, or calling another man for help. None of those actions feel powerful in the moment. Yet they are often the very path God provides.

A changing heart begins to view temptation differently. Instead of asking, "How close can I get?" it asks, "Where is the escape God has already provided?" Instead of testing personal strength, it depends on God's faithfulness.

The strongest men are not those who never face temptation. They are the men who recognize it early and take the exit God provides. Wisdom is not found in standing near the edge. Wisdom is found in staying on the trail God marked out from the beginning.

LIVE IT OUT

This week, identify one area where temptation regularly appears on your trail. Pay attention to the exits God provides before the pressure grows stronger. When conviction comes, act immediately. God's faithfulness is not found only in helping you endure temptation, but in providing a way to escape it.

PRAY THIS...

"Lord, help guard me against splits in the trail that take me away from Your guidance."

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Practice builds the man.***

Contact: John Leavy
Email: johndleavy@gmail.com
Website: 1Man2Another.com