

LWML *Texas* District

September 5

Meditation

Snakes

I do not like snakes. I know they have an important role in the ecosystem, and that many are truly beneficial. There are even individuals who keep rat snakes around their chicken coops to kill vermin and venomous snakes that would destroy their poultry. They sacrifice a few eggs a year in order to keep the beneficial snakes around.

Genesis 3 points to “the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field...” Snakes in the garden were not inherently evil, simply “more crafty.” In this instance, either Satan appeared in the form of a snake or inhabited one to tempt Eve into eating the fruit of the tree of good and evil. It has been the debate for many years as to what did the fruit look like on this tree?

American Christianity somehow decided as a general rule the fruit was an apple. Others believe it was a pomegranate or fig. Some prefer to think that whatever the fruit was it looked good to eat and is no longer an option in our local markets. Often when we think of the fruit that Eve and Adam partook of, we think “how could they have been so foolish?! Didn’t they believe God in the first place??

Our lives would be so much better had they just followed one easy direction!” Let’s take a look at our own temptations, while we do not have a snake talking us into it, there are many opportunities for us to be aware of the temptations around us.

Sometimes, we fall easily into Satan’s traps because of who surrounds us, or the company we keep. It can be situational. You become incredibly angry and then lash out towards the innocent bystanders in your family. Sometimes temptation comes from filling our minds with things apart from God. For those who are attempting to become more disciplined with nutrition, those Blue Bell commercials can really be swaying.

Jesus was tempted, showing us again his humanity and divinity. He was tempted while alone in the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4). He had come up from the Jordan after his baptism by John, and was immediately led by the Spirit to the wilderness. Satan tempted him in 3 major ways: physically with food, glory, and power. Satan twists God’s own words, however, Jesus knowing Scripture as well, if not better than Satan, rebukes him every time. Jesus rebukes him using God’s Word.

How do we, then, stand firm amidst temptation? While we are not impermeable to temptation, we can strive to follow God’s true word through various ways. One way is being in the Bible regularly. Studying the Word of God, and committing it to memory. Another way is surrounding ourselves by believers who know us, and know God’s Word and will, as it says in 2 Timothy 4, use God’s Word to rebuke and teach us with gentleness and patience.

Spending time with God in prayer can greatly impact our relationship with Him, changing our hearts and minds enabling us to know and do His will. What we fill our minds with becomes our focus. If we fill our minds with things of this world that will become our focus. When we fill our

minds with God's Word, music focused on Him, and conversations surrounding His Word, that is where our focus will be.

So fear of snakes no longer has to be our demise. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, like the Israelites who were surrounded by venomous snakes looked at the bronze snake on staff through faith for healing, we too, can focus on the true healer, Jesus.

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