

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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Moments from the Mount
02/04//2021

TOPIC: “The Devil’s Diamond”

For the past two weeks we have been looking at the story of Adam and Eve. They had it made!!! Things were going pretty well!

But then something happened. What? Life!!! You can be certain that in life, things do go wrong.

QUESTION: Has the “unexpected” ever happened in your life?

Sometimes things simply don’t turn out the way that we planned.

But thank God that He always has a back-up plan. God is able to *fix-up*, things that get *messed-up*.

Let’s take a look at how the devil works. We will look at what we’re calling, “**The Devil’s Diamond**”. This is how he attacked Adam and Eve. And this is how he will attack us. His strategy doesn’t change.

- **The Devil’s Diamond**

1). **James 1:14-15-** 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**.

a). **First Base-** “**But every man is tempted...**”-

This is the “**temptation**” base. This is actually a declaration, “every man *will be tempted...* by the devil!” **You cannot control this base.** It is out of your control. It will happen.

But, to be tempted is not a sin. It’s normal!!! Jesus was tempted.

1). **Matthew 4:1; 3-** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** of the devil. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

This is “always” **step # 1** for Satan. And it will normally come in the form of a “thought”. Satan will normally place a thought in your mind. And sometimes we place them there ourselves.

b). Second Base- 1). James 1:14- But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own **lust**, and **enticed**.

This is the **lust/enticement base**. **You can control this base**. Here, is where “*you*” now have to “**do something**” with the thought.

You have two options:

1). Explore- You can **explore** the thought. Here, you “**receive**” the thought, and think about it some more. Maybe even a lot more.

2). Ignore- You can **ignore** the thought. Here, you “**resist**” the thought.

a). Matthew 4:4- But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Jesus chose to “resist” the thought.

c). Third Base- 1). James 1:14-15 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.

This is the “**action**” **base**. **You also have control over this base**. After being tempted, and thinking about it long enough,... Adam and Eve made a *decision*. This is called the “*moment of decision*”. They made decision, and followed through with it.

This is what Satan really wants. For you and I to take “action”.

d). Home Base- 1). James 1:15- Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth **death**.

This is the “**consequence**” base. **We have no control over this base.** Our only hope here is God’s grace!!!

There are **two** possible *consequential outcomes*:

1). Grace-

a). Romans 5:20b- But where **sin** abounded, **grace** did much more abound:

2). Face-

a). Galatians 6:7- Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man **soweth**, that shall he also **reap**

b). Hosea 8:7a- For they have sown the **wind**, and they shall reap the **whirlwind**:

- **Adam’s Action**

1). First Base- Temptation

a. Genesis 3:1-5- Now *the serpent* was more *subtil* than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And **he said** unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴ And *the serpent* **said** unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:** ⁵ For God doth know that *in the day ye eat thereof*, then *your eyes shall be opened*, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

2). Second Base- Lust/Enticement-

a. Genesis 3:6a- And when the woman **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,

3). Third Base- Action

a. **Genesis 3:6b**-...she took of the fruit thereof, and did **eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did **eat**.

4). Home Base- Consequences

a. **Genesis 3:7**- And the eyes of them both were opened, and they **knew** that they were naked; and they **sewed fig leaves together**, and made themselves aprons.

- **David's Decision**

1). First Base- Temptation/Thought

a. **II Samuel 11:2a**- And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof **he saw a woman washing herself**;

2). Second Base- Lust/Enticement

a. **II Samuel 2:11b**- and the woman was **very beautiful** to look upon.

He looked long enough to reach this conclusion.

3). Third Base- Action

a. **II Samuel 11:3-4**- ³ And David sent and **enquired** after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ⁴ And David sent messengers, and **took** her;

4). Home Base- Consequences

a. **II Samuel 11:5**- ⁵ And the woman **conceived**, and sent and told David, and said, **I am with child.**

Since we cannot control the **temptation** (*first base*), and since we have no control over the **consequences** (*home base*), let's look at the two bases that we have been given power to control (*second and third base*- **lust/enticement** and **action**).

- **Lust/Enticement and action-**

This is where all temptation must be confronted and resisted. Before Adam sinned, he had to **"think"** about it, and then make a **decision** about, what he had been **thinking** about.

1). Proverbs 4:23- *Keep thy heart* (mind/thoughts) with all diligence; for out of **it** are the issues of life.

2). II Corinthians 10:5b- and bringing into *captivity every thought* to the obedience of Christ;

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: How is this done? Unwanted thoughts, must be replaced by new thoughts. You do this by saying like Jesus, **"It is written"**.

At this point you must pull out the "sword of the spirit". You must always replace evil thoughts with bible thoughts.

