

Cry of His Coming!

And at Midnight a cry was made, behold the bridegroom cometh, Go ye out to meet him." Man. 25:1-10
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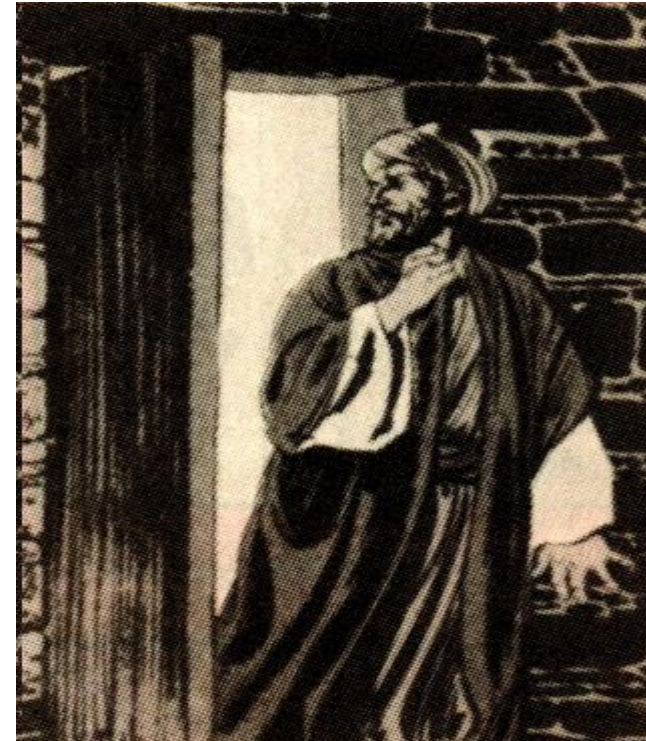
FOR THE THIRD TIME PETER DENIES KNOWING JESUS AND THEN THE COCK CROWS! STARTLED, PETER RAISES HIS HEAD - TO LOOK STRAIGHT INTO THE EYES OF JESUS - WHO IS BEING LED OUT OF THE COURT



Peter commits gross sin, repents

SICK WITH SHAME PETER RUSHES OUTSIDE, WEeping BITTERLY

THREE TIMES I DENIED MY LORD—JUST HE SAID I WOULD' O GOD, FORGIVE ME



Judas betrays Jesus commits suicide and is lost.

SIN

By Pastor Max Solbrekken

TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF

PURITY!

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life; which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.” (James 1:12)

ONLY ONE MAN EVER LIVED A PERFECT LIFE – IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED – AND THAT MAN WAS JESUS CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUS!

Only one man in the world’s history could turn to His enemies and say **“Which one of you convinces me of sin:” (Jn.8:46)** Only Jesus Christ could say to an incurable sick man, **“Thy sins be forgiven thee”, for “only God can forgive sin”.** (Matt.9:2) (Mark 2:7)

Then to back it up by His ability to forgive sins, He healed the man perfectly!

ALL OTHERS HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD!

St. Paul stated, **“The scripture hath concluded all under sin”.** (Gal. 3:22) He knew the battles of temptation and sin!

In his classic dissertation about **The Three Laws** that govern our inherited sinful natures, our God-given consciences and Christ;s divine intervention by the New Birth, **we see how helpless we are outside of God’s mercy!**

THESE THREE LAWS TOTALLY GOVERN OUR CONDUCT.

“For we know that the law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

CANADA’S REVIVAL MAGAZINE

MUST YOU ALWAYS THINK OF POTIPHAR?	HE IS MY MASTER I WILL NOT BE UNTRUE TO HIM OR DISOBEY MY GOD	NO MAN CAN SCORN - ME AND LIVE.
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‘The Potiphar’s Wife Syndrome’ –

YOUR HEBREW SLAVE TRIED TO KISS ME:AND HE LEFT...BUT HE DROP HIS ROBE. HERE SEE IT.	I’LL THROW HIM IN PRISON FOR THIS
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“If I can’t have him I’ll destroy him!”

SIN

TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF

PURITY!

“Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. **For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not that I do.**

“ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of god after the inward men: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**” (Rom. 7: 24-23)

“OH WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM”, cries St. Paul. “WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?” (Rom. 7:24)

Then he states, “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin”. (Rom.7:25)

But there is good news! **Here is the key to Deliverance.** “ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS hath made me free from the law of sin and death”. (Rom.1-2)

The “law of God in our inward parts” is the eternity He has placed in our hearts” (Eccl. 3:11 Lit. Greek). The “law of sin and death” is the sinful we are all born with and **“the of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus which sets us free”**, is the miracle of *the new Birth, through Jesus’ redemptive work on Mount Calvary*

“No wonder St. Paul underscores this truth in his letter to the church at Ephesus: “For by grace are ye saved through faith. That not of yourselves, it is the gift of God **Not of work lest any man should boast.**

“ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works.” (Eph. 2:8-10)

The great Apostle was born again (I Cor. 15: - 4), filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 14:18, called to preach the gospel. Rom 1:15-16), had been blessed with many visions and spiritual revelations (1 Cor. 12:1) and had a deep yearning to be like Jesus. (Phill. 3:10)...

And yet he was not perfect! He wrote “I would not have known lust except that it is written, thou shall not covet” (Rom. 7:7)

Again he wrote, Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Jesus Christ. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,” (Phil 3:12-14)

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Moses disobey God

SIN TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF PURITY

MOSES - A PROPHET LIKE UNTO ME

Although he was perfect, yet **Moses** was a type of Christ! He stated, "A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren like unto me; shall ye hear (Acts 7:37)

The Bible says, "The law came by Moses but grace and truth come by Jesus Christ". (Jn. 1:17)

Moses was the meekest man in all the earth, spoke to God as man to man and **yet he disobeyed the Almighty** in a **moment of rage** against his people who were constantly murmuring and speaking against God and his servant.

The man we call "the lawgiver" disobeyed God's instruction "not to strike the rock the second time but to speak to it", in bringing forth water, in the desert. (num 20:11)

The Rock represented Christ, who was smitten once – when He died on Calvary's Cross. He cannot ever die again!

And that is why our **Roman Catholic** friends commit a horrendous sin of disobedience every time they crucify Christ afresh in their daily masses.

Moses struck the rock, instead of speaking to it. – on the second occasion. Water gushed out to supply the needs of the thirsty Israelites, but God was wroth and declared that Moses would only see the promised land, but not enter in.

And so it was!

JOSEPH SMEARED BY A SCORNEWOMAN!

Joseph was a perfect type of Jesus Christ, even though he also was imperfect. The Bible says, All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), and "All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way and the Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6).

JOSEPH WAS LOVED BY HIS FATHER, HATED BY HIS BRETHREN, HAD SUPERNATURAL UNDERSTANDING OF HIS MISSION IN LIFE AS A YOUNG LAD, WAS SOLD FOR 20 PIECES OF SILVER, TOOK A BRIDE OF THE GENTILES AND BROUGHT DELIVERANCE TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE WHEN THEY COULD NOT DELIVER THEMSELVES!

Even though Potiphar's wife tried repeatedly, to seduce him sexually, Joseph cried out, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God", (Gen. 39: 7-20)

As reached out to embrace him, he slipped out of her grasp leaving his garment in her hand. Seeing that she could not have, she felt slighted and decided to take revenge!

SIN, TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF PURITY

Even today, some women use the same ploy – “Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned”, says an old proverb! “If I can’t have him, I’ll destroy him”, is another!

So Potipher’s wife lied about Joseph and he was cast into prison, for a time. Later he was released and became the second ruler under Pharaoh himself!

Hallelujah!

David wasn’t so spiritually wise. He went out of his way to sin with **BATHSHEBA** in an **adulterous** relationship. And even had her husband **Uriah** killed in battle to cover his sin. But God saw it all and **King David had to pay**. His son by Bathsheba died and the sword never did depart out of David’s House from that time forward. (II Sam. 12: 10)



David commits adultery with Bathsheba

Here David’s cry unto God for mercy and forgiveness: “**Have mercy upon me O God**, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

“**Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity**, and cleanse me from my sins. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

“**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean**: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide thy face from my sin, and blot out all mine iniquities.

“**Create in me a clean heart, O God**; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

“**Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation**; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.” (Ps.51)

TEMPTATION IN ITSELF IS NO EVIL!

BUT THE KING KNEW HOW TO REPENT! The Lord Jesus taught us to pray: “Our Father which art in heaven... **lead us not into temptation**, deliver us from evil”.

(Matt. 6:13)

“**Saint James** wrote, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

“**But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own flesh, and enticed.**”

“ Then Pastor James shows the terrible escalation of ruin that lust causes.

And did all drink the same spiritual drink (The new wine – Baptism of the Holy Ghost): for they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth death”

Finally, he issues a warning to the Church – **“Do not err, my beloved brethren”. (v. 16);**

In other words, no one is immune from Satan’s temptations the weakness of the flesh or the allurements of the world.

DO NOT ERR MY BELOVED!

Writing to the Church in Corinth, St. Paul warns that even though God led the children of Israel out of bondage (a type of the world) and they were all under the cloud (Holy Spirit) and all passed through the sea(type of death to self) and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea(speaks of water baptism by immersion); and did all eat the same spiritual meat. (New Birth).

“But with many of them, God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness,” (1 Cor. 10: 1-5)

SIN, TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF PURITY

Rebellion

JOSHUA
PLEADS WITH THE PEOPLE TO
HAVE COURAGE AND THE TAKE
CANAAN, THE LAND GOD PROMISED
THEM. BUT THE PEOPLE ARE
FRIGHTENED BY THE TEN COWARDY
SCOUTS WHO REPORT GIANTS AND
FORTIFIED
CITIES, ANGRILY TURN AGAINST
JOSHUA AND
HIS FELLOW SCOUT, CALEB.

**STONE
THEM!**

**DOWN
WITH JOSHUA!**

Why? Because they were idolaters and worship idols, rather than the Lord who was their Creator & Saviour! They were fornicators, they tempted Christ and they murmured.

Then St. Paul comes this broadside **“Wherefore Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”, (v 12)**

A WAY OF ESCAPE

But St. Paul also gives us some encouraging news: **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man But God is Faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are; but with the temptation ALSO MAKE A WAY OF ESCAPE, that ye may be able to bear it”.)1 Cor. 10:13)**

How encouraging to hear testimonies of both young and old who have been tempted and stood true to God and their convictions.

Some have been drawn unwittingly into compromising situations and been guilty of some indiscretionary action, but have been rescued by the Holy Spirit it’s prompting - preventing them from unethical, immoral or illegal sins of the flesh.

Thank God for THE WAY OF ESCAPE, he provides for those who are naïve and susceptible, becoming a target of Satan – but because of their dedication and love for God are delivered from the precipice of sin!

SIN, TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF PURITY

THERE IS ALSO A WAY OF ESCAPE FOR THE ONE WHO HAS FALLEN – UNWITTINGLY OR WILLFULLY – providing there is genuine repentance in humility and godly sorrow!

Hallelujah!

IN TIME OF TEMPTATION – SOME FALL AWAY

Jesus draws our attention to Satan's tactics of using **temptation** to draw away from Christ those who hear the Word of God and desire to serve God.

"They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the Word with Joy; and these have no roots, which for awhile believe, and in time of temptation..." fall away." (Luke 8:13)

St. James admonishes: "Count it all joy when ye fall into **manifold temptation...**" (James 1:27) Again St. Peter speaks about the church going through **manifold temptation** (testing) and the heaviness they were experiencing.

HERE THE REASON: **That the trials of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, THOUGH IT BE TRIED IN FIRE might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Pet. 1:1, 6,7.)

Then the Apostle reassures: "**The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations**, and the to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished".(11 Pet. 2:9)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE FALLEN

The Bible says, "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If **confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**". (1 Jn. 1:7-9)

Jesus is our High Priest and advocate before the Father interceding "for us day and night pleading our cause before the throne. Heb. 7:25)

"..and if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous:

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"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (Jn. 2: 1-2)

Jesus Christ Himself been tempted and overcame Satan's strongholds for us.

PRAISE THE LORD!

St. Paul declared, "...that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to **make reconciliation for the sins of the people**

For in that he might be himself hath suffer being tempted. HE IS ABLE to succour them that are tempted." (Heb. 2:17-18)

SATAN IS THE TEMPTER

The Scriptures pinpoint Satan time after time as **"The Tempter" (1 These. 3:5)**

We see his sinister hand in Jesus' wilderness temptation and how our Lord easily overcame the Tempter by using the Word of God.

"It is written" were the words Jesus Christ used to turn him away!

And since "Jesus walk in all points, tempted as we are yet without sin" Heb 4:15), **we know He will rescue us by His empowering Almighty Holy Spirit and through the shed blood of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour!**

FINALLY HOW DO WE DEAL WITH ONE WHO HAS FALLEN?

Here are the words of St. Paul: "Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore such an one in the Spirit of meekness; considering thyself; lest those also be tempted.**

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6: 1-2)

Let me close with the words of **General William Booth**: "... if from any cause, whatever you should lose the assurance that the blood of Jesus cleanses you or if, more melancholy still, you should lose the blessing of purity fly at once to your Saviour's feet, confess your wrongdoing, give yourself up again to the full service of your Lord, and once more plunge in the fountain open for sin and uncleanness; and then, profiting by the sorrow and disappointment of your fall, start a fresh to live the life of faith in a purifying Saviour".

St. James states that a man who endures temptations is Blessed of God! For a when a person is tested and tried and stands true, he becomes stronger with each test.

And the Lord has promises all who Love Him, the Crown of Life on that great and momentous day when we shall see Him face to face and tell the story SAVED BY GRACE!

Let us never forget that God demands "purity of heart" from His People this can be accomplished only by the work of God in our lives.

May we all "draw nigh unto God so that He will draw nigh unto us". (James 4:8) As we obey the call of the Holy Spirit and hide God's Word deep in our hearts and trust in the shed blood of Jesus to cleanse and purify, God will do the rest!

The prophet David who committed several grievous sins, repent and was forgiven by God, writes:

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? **By taking heed thereto according to thy word.**" (Ps.119:9)

And St. Peter who committed the most terrible sin of all – a sin of the Spirit – when he denied three times with oaths and curses that he did not even know Christ (Matt. 27: 73-75), Later repented with bitter tears after our merciful Saviour Looked upon him!

What would have happened to Peter had not Jesus stopped to look upon him – as the crock crew the second time on His way to PILATE'S Judgment hall?

How close was peter from finding a tree to hang himself as Judas done?

SIN, TEMPTATION AND THE PURSUIT OF PURITY

If it wasn't for the grace of God' none of us would be saved!

St. Paul gives us some excellent advice:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, which is your reasonable services. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed from by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:1-2)

The writer to the Hebrews concurs: "Wherefore seeing we also are a cloud of witnesses, **Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Heb. 12: 1-2)

LET US ALL ACCEPT AND OBEY THE WORD OF GOD IN TOTALITY SO WE MAY WALK IN PURITY AND POWER!

And may we all obey St. James' commandment:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

How do you resist the devil? St. Peter states, " Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world", (1 Peter 5: 8-9)

And finally, let me stress the importance of taking our burdens, sins and failing to the Lord and leaving them there.

There is a saying, "**To err is human but to forgive is divine!**" And there is must truth in that. Only God can give us the grace to **forgive those** who have wronged us, maligned us and hurt us and even more grace to **forgive ourselves** for the sins we have we have so foolishly been involved in!

If we want God to forgive us then we must forgive those who have hurt us and even more grace **to bury the hatchet"** and then follow the word of Jesus, "**to be reconciled to God and one another**".

We must love and forgive those seeking personal vindication at whatever the cost or revenge like Potipher's wife!

May God help those in this situation to come to grips with God's great mercy and compassion to come to grips with God's great mercy and compassion to all who repent and allow the Holy Spirit to have the last word!

In closing let me share the words of St. Paul on how to keep our minds healthy and pure:

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:7-8)



Father I have sin against Heaven and you I'm not worthy to be called your son

THE PRODIGAL RETURNS

Medical Specialist Feared

They would have to remove both my kidneys – Then Jesus did a miracle for me at Faith Cathedral X-rays proved all 54 stones (some as large as my little finger dissolved after 3 weeks ago.

-Judy Hanson, Edmonton



Gordie and Judy Hanson with Pastor Max Solbrenken

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Dear Friends

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Your Evangelist.