

8.10.2013

Lesson 20: Lead Us Not Into Temptation

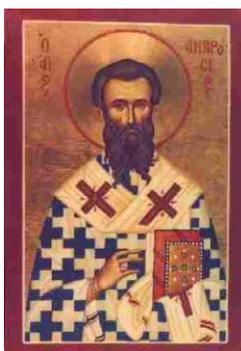
Blame Throwing Blame Shifting - Is Your Head in the Right Place?

The Holy Fathers of the Church remind us that we need to think about how we might better ourselves more purposely to use the blessings God has given to us; so that we might be an enhanced blessing for Him to others. We should make this consideration in our lives as we walk our daily lives. This is not an instinctive or easy thought process. It seems to be a natural thing for us men to focus upon ourselves and our wants, desires and needs.

Turning away from Earthly Temptations is not easy. They are usually wrapped in a counterfeit light of deception, seemingly coming from God. The effects and impacts of such false inducements, allures, decoys and attractions can be devastating in one's life. It matters not if you are 16 or 70 the forces of temptation create a lifelong struggle.

The focus on the true sources of temptations in our lives and the many manifestations in today's modern world all emanate from the same source: the one who would separate us from the Source of Love, the one who would disconnect us from God.

St. Ambrose tells us that God is always with us, we cannot hide from Him and He knows our every thought, our every desire, our every word and our every deed. Yet somehow God has unconditional forgiveness for us. He even goes as far to send his only son to share our earthly existence and become flesh.



Paul tells you that every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: go into your "room" to pray. You must understand this is not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections.

This room of prayer is always with you where ever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you. **St. Ambrose**

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus really is our Savior? More so, what are the consequences in our lives when we invite Him firsthand into that "room of prayer" that St. Ambrose and St. Paul speak of?

Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?"

The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad."

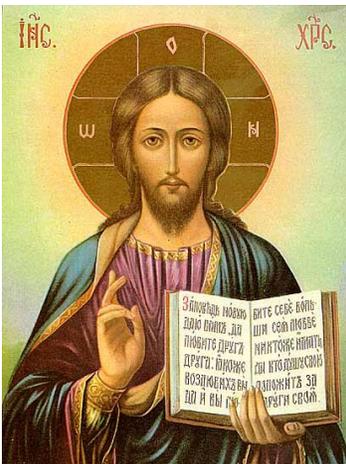
The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

When they heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God then called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"

The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me--she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it."

The LORD God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."



James 1:12-15

Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.

No one experiencing temptation should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire conceives and brings forth sin, and when sin reaches maturity it gives birth to death.

The Word of the Lord.

Catechism

2846

We therefore ask our Father not to "lead" us into temptation. . . . God cannot be tempted by evil and He himself tempts no one; on the contrary, He wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin. We are engaged in the battle "between flesh and spirit"; this petition implores the Spirit of discernment and strength.

2847

The Holy Spirit makes us discern between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death.

God does not want to impose good, but wants free beings... No one but God knows what our soul has received from him, not even we ourselves. But temptation reveals it in order to teach us to know ourselves, and in this way we discover our evil inclinations and are obliged to give thanks for the good that temptation has revealed to us.



2848

"Lead us not into temptation" implies a decision of the heart: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. . . . No one can serve two masters." "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." In this assent to the Holy Spirit the Father gives us strength. "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, so that you may be able to endure it."



Modern Comment – George and the Problem Real Estate

George thought of himself as a good, decent God-fearing person. He loved his family and generally had a good reputation in the community, but George was struggling financially. He worked for a commercial real estate company, and the deals he had tried to put together for the last several months had not worked out. His savings had been depleted, and George began to wonder how he was going to be able to support his family. In fact, he had already talked to an attorney friend about the possibility of filing bankruptcy.

As if in answer to his prayers, a significant transaction came his way. The commission for this deal would make up for the dry spell of previous months, and then some. He was elated. Then he learned that the property was located on contaminated ground, and if the buyer found out about it, the deal would surely fall through.

It was by accident that he had learned about the problem, and the possibility of the buyer finding out was almost nil. This deal would take care of all his financial problems, and he did have a responsibility to his family. What was he to do?



Questions to Focus on:

1 In Genesis, Adam and Eve try to shift blame for giving into temptation. In the above Modern Comment, how could George do that? How do we do the same thing? Does the pressure to shift responsibility affect you? Can you share how you dealt with it?

2 Most of us have heard the comment that God allows temptation in order to strengthen us. How have struggles with temptation strengthened you?

3 In the Matthew reading, Jesus urged his disciples to “watch and pray”. Why is prayer so important when dealing with temptation? Share an instance when prayer helped you overcome temptation, or when you wished you had prayed?

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.





Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

Saint Patrick - March 17th

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Click On Ministries – Then Spiritual Formation – Then Men's Group

Men's Group Calendar

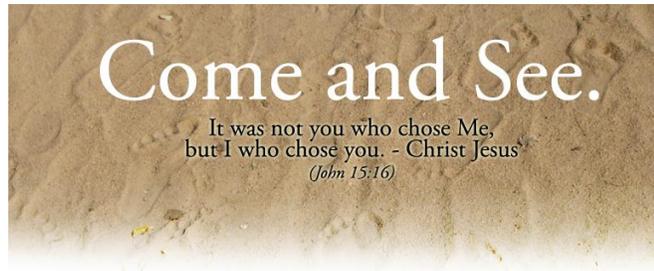
8/24/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
9/14/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
9/28/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
10/12/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
10/26/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
11/9/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
11/23/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
12/14/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass

CMFNEO Annual Conference is March 22, 2014



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.

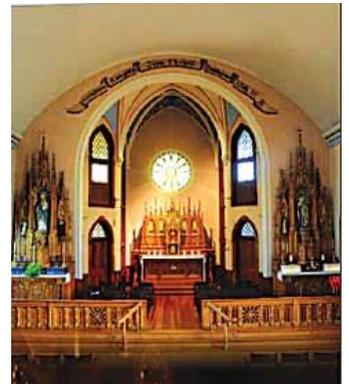
Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. Amen



Pilgrimage – A Way to Pray

- Are you in need of a Big Favor from God? - Make a Pilgrimage.
- Are you ready to give a worrisome part of your life to God? - Make a Pilgrimage.
- Is there something just so Big that you can't handle it? - Make a Pilgrimage.

Making a Pilgrimage is a form of prayer with a long history in the Church. Travel to a Holy Place to ask for God's favor or to express gratitude for a Blessing received has always been a tremendous form of prayer. People still travel to shrines, cathedrals, apparition sites to ask for what one needs from God...and to give Thanks!



Pilgrimage can be done close to home, by oneself or in a group. A Pilgrimage is expecting to meet and share with God. It is a Powerful form of Prayer.

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen for God's will in my life by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant



May our Lord, God and Savior not allow us to be led into temptation or indeed be tempted at all.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group.



“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.” St. Francis of Assisi

Regarding St. Francis, Monk of God, the words are commonly accepted and attributed to St. Francis...even though the first appearance of them took place 200 years after his death. Some scholars defend the source as being St. Francis...some do not. In the final analysis, all accept that the words reflect his Spirit, Tone and Tenor.

Take this quote from Francis as an indication of where his heart was:

“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.”

Perhaps we men of God can add to our lives:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16-17

What does “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words” mean to Modern Man?

It means that in order to truly live a Christian life one must not merely know scripture but practice it as a lifestyle. In other words, it is easy to say, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" but it is much harder to live your life that way. God does not expect perfection. He made us. He knows our weaknesses. He does want us to try our best at all times all the while forgiving us **Unconditionally.**

Lord be merciful to we sinners and forgive us for we are Thy Good Servants.