



MARCH 17, 2025

The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Devotion:

This verse is often misinterpreted as “God will never give you more than you can handle” but maybe that’s a bit short sighted. I think Paul would disagree—a man who was tested and tried again and again, and I’m sure often questioned the weight and purpose of the burden he carried. Many of us have received more than we can handle as well—the multiple miscarriages, the sudden death of a friend or family member, the scary diagnosis, the layoff after a 25-year career—it’s not fair to say that God will never give us more than we can handle. It happens all the time. But if we seek the actual Greek translation of the verse, we see the word “peirasmos” which is translated as “trial, test, or temptation.” In fact, this verse is sometimes translated into English as “No temptation has overtaken you...” With this in mind, our focus can shift from testing to temptation.

Temptation is a pretty dominant theme throughout Lent if not the dominant theme. A couple of weeks ago we saw Jesus tempted in the wilderness by the devil, and we know in a few weeks that Peter will be tempted to deny Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We are tempted every day by skipping our workout and unhealthy snacks and spouting off at that person online who said something that really got our goat. Sometimes the temptations are bigger and more significant. Sometimes the temptation is to give up altogether. In any case, the struggle is real. The thing is, though, even though God may occasionally give us more than we can handle, He will not give us more temptation than we can handle. The difference is razor thin at times—trials can occasionally disguise as temptations and vice versa—but the proverbial apple itself is not the same as making the decision to bite into it. We are often presented with tasks and challenges that may seem insurmountable, but it is our God given free will to decide how we approach and overcome those tasks and challenges, and therein lies the opportunity for temptation to creep in. Sometimes we’re tempted to take the easy route. Sometimes we’re tempted to ride on the coattails of others. Then, hopefully and eventually, we realize the way forward. Sometimes that way seems clear and sure, other times it will be seem cloudy and riddled with roadblocks. But through it all, God is along for the ride. Like Paul said, God will “provide the way out so you may endure it.” Indeed, God is with us and will never leave us high and dry amidst our temptation; but it is entirely up to us to hear and heed the call to trust implicitly that we are not alone in our journeys forward, no matter how simple or complicated they may be.

The Prayer:

Loving God, be with us as we identify and overcome temptation. Allow us to know and hear you amidst the noise, so that we may know you are with us and will never lead us astray. Help us trust in your abundant love that we will never be alone and that we can always endure, even when the path forward might be difficult to see. Amen.

By Kristine Gilbert