



LESSON 8: The countdown begins Esther 3:7-15

Teacher: Beth Seifert

©Copyright Naomi's Table 2014

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. What attitude should we be careful of lest we fall?

Why is it comforting to know that we do not experience any temptations that are uncommon?

Will God allow us to be tempted?

What demonstrates His faithfulness when we are tempted? (Two things in verse 13)

Read Matthew 4:1-11. Who is being tempted here?

What does Satan use to tempt Him?

What does He use to confound Satan in each instance?

What does that tell you about the importance of knowing Scripture and knowing it accurately?

What might that challenge you to invest more of your time in?

Read Hebrews 2:16-18. Who is it that Jesus helps?

Because of that, how did He have to be made?

Why is He able to help those who are being tempted?

Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Why can we draw near to the throne of grace with confidence?

What comfort can you claim knowing that He has been tempted just as you have been tempted?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What is one huge cause for falling into temptation?

How should we be content?

Read James 1:12-15. How does James describe the man who is blessed?

Does God tempt men?

What is the source of our temptation?

What is the ultimate end of desire that is allowed to gain control of your life?

Why should that be a warning to you about longing too much for anything in this world?

Read Acts 5:40-41. What did the apostles rejoice in?

Why would they rejoice in that?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Who comforts us in our sufferings and trials?

What does Paul tell us we *will* share in? (Two things, verse 5)

Read 2 Peter 4:12-16. What should we not be surprised about?

What are we to rejoice in? (**Read verse 15 carefully. We can suffer because of our sin or wrongdoing. That isn't something to be proud of or rejoice in!)

If we suffer for being a Christian, what should our reaction be?

Read Philippians 3:7-11. What, according to Paul, is worth any amount of suffering or loss?

What is Paul glad to share in if it means he reaches this prize?

Both temptation and suffering are part of our walk as Christians. As Christians, we are told to expect to suffer for Christ. We must count the cost and understand that we are not promised health and wealth and comfort in this life, but we are promised a reward that is eternal, and all that we suffer in this world will be as nothing to the reward we live in hope of. We will be tempted in this life, but we serve a Savior who was tempted in every way and can empathize with us and intercede for us to God.

As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to see the ways out He provides when you are tempted. Thank Him for His promises, knowing He is faithful. Rejoice in the knowledge that when we are tempted, there is always a way out. Rejoice, too, knowing that when you suffer for Christ, you bring glory to Him and that any of the things you suffer in this life are not worth comparing to the glory that is to come.