

AT THE MASTER'S FEET:
A study of Jesus' Sermons in the Gospel of Matthew
AMEN Bible Study 2012-2013

THE MASTER'S FAMILY: THE RECONCILED LIFE

HANDLING YOUR SIN - Matthew 18:7-9

March 7, 2013

18:7 I. Woe to the tempter.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!"

Falling into temptation:

- ◆ defiles our conscience
- ◆ disturbs our peace
- ◆ weakens our obedience
- ◆ clouds our vision of God

:8-9 II. Woe to the flesh.

:8a,9a A. Obedience demands self-discipline.

"And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, but it off and throw it away.... And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away."

Eight steps toward defeating temptation:

- ◆ don't trust yourself
cf. Proverbs 26:28a; Psalm 51:3-5; Romans 7:13-24; 8:7, 8; I Corinthians 10:12
- ◆ contemplate the consequences
cf. Psalm 1:3-6; 37:16, 17, 37, 38; 73:16, 17
- ◆ stick close to your friends
cf. I Samuel 18:1-4; 20:41, 42; Luke 10:1
- ◆ set your mind on the Spirit
cf. Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:1-4
- ◆ fill your heart with the love of God
cf. Genesis 39:8, 9; II Corinthians 5:14
- ◆ stand against the tempter
cf. Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7b; I Peter 5:8-10
- ◆ run from the temptation
cf. I Corinthians 10:13, 14; Daniel 3:17; II Peter 2:9; Genesis 39:12
- ◆ burn your bridges
cf. Luke 9:62; Romans 13:14

:8b,9b B. Self-discipline brings great joy.

"It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.... And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire"

cf. Matthew 5:29, 30; Mark 9:42-50