

## Catch Phrase: Devil's Trade- Deception, Temptation, Guilt & Death

We just saw a skit concerning the devil & his wily ways. The devil looms large in pop culture & in our language. We have many idioms about the devil too: *Idle hands are the devil's tool; the devil's in the details; devil of a time; give the devil his due; play devil's advocate; caught between the devil & the deep blue sea*. As we learned all of last year, *the thief (devil) comes only to rob, kill & destroy (Jn 10:10a)*. *Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2Cor11:14b)*. Two of Satan's tools are deception & temptation- he makes something bad look good on the outside, but in the end it causes massive trouble in our lives.

Let's look at temptation. Almost everyone loves chocolate, right? Think about a big box of them... gooey, scrumptious nuggets of yumminess. There's nothing wrong with chocolate, right? But if you've made a New Year's diet resolution, chocolates are a great temptation. You want to eat them, but you know that it would throw off your whole plan. But they look sooooo good & yummy. That's a temptation: something that looks good on the surface & promises you momentary satisfaction. You can either resist the temptation or give it & throw off the bigger plan. The sad thing is, once you've eaten one chocolate, it's easier to have just one more & then another. Eventually the diet's out the window & you're 20 lbs heavier!

The devil's temptation is far worse than a box of chocolates. We all know what we're getting with the box of chocolates. But the devil throws in deception on top of it all. Remember, Satan disguises himself to look like an angel of light. And he disguises bad things and bad choices to make them appear to be good things & good choices. Then he tempts you with the bad things that seem to appear to be good! And when you fall for it, he hits you with guilt & shame. And it starts a terrible cycle: Deception->Temptation->Sin->Guilt/Shame->Repeat... Think about the Teen Challenge guys that were here last week. Every single one of them was once a middle-schooler & a high schooler like you. But somewhere along the line, they were deceived to think drinking & drugs were ok. They were a "good thing" to use to become cool, to escape life's problems, or be an easy solution to deal with their pain. But that was a trap of Satan – a deception & a temptation – that was *literally killing them!* Every one of the guys from last week has multiples of friends who didn't make it out of Satan's trap, but died from OD's in it. For many of these men 1). *Idle hands were the devil's tool*; and someone was 2). *playing devil's advocate* & saying "take the drugs", but the 3.) *devil was in the details* (the hidden details of where the drugs would lead); and then they became addicts & criminals and had a 4). *devil of a time* breaking the addiction because they were stuck 5) *caught between the devil & the deep blue sea* (a desperate situation). So the devil is very, very crafty & we'd have to 6) *give the devil his due* (give him credit for being deceptive & successful).

Now no one here would ever fall for the devil's deception & temptation of drugs right? I sure hope not. So if I brought out a box of drugs you wouldn't take them, right? Of course not! But what if I brought out a box of dog poo, would you eat it? No way, never! But what about a box of chocolates? Those look great. But if you go beneath the thin chocolate surface, you'll find that these have dog poo inside! Yuck! And that's the devil's deception. He takes poo & makes it look good, even tempting. But when you bite into it, it only brings sickness, destruction & death. So if someone tried to offer you chocolate-covered poo, would you want a warning? *The way of foolish people seems right to them. But those who are wise listen to advice (Prov 12:15)*.

Let's be real: some here tonight are heading into the devil's trap of deception. You've been lied to – Satan is trying to convince you that what is bad is good and what's good & godly is bad. He's using the society to convince you to reject God, reject His Word & His truth. He's trying to convince you do whatever society tells you to do to feel good about yourself, to feel accepted, to be cool, to numb the pain of your past. He's trying to convince you to eat the chocolate dog poo! And it can start out small, but soon your chowing down on a great big pile of poo! Folks, "*The gate to destruction is wide, and the road that leads there is easy to follow. A lot of people go through that gate. But the gate to life is very narrow. The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few people find it*" (Mt 7:13b-14, CEV). I want you to know that it's not too late. *But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ (1Cor 15:57)*. He gives us wisdom to identify Satan's chocolate poo through His Word (the Bible) & guidance from His Holy Spirit (Ps 119:105; James 1:5). And God promises to give us strength to resist temptation (1Cor 10:13). Finally, He puts godly people in your life to help you identify the poo & avoid it (James 5:16; 1Thes 5:11). The **bottom line** is you don't have to be deceived, ***you don't need to eat Satan's poo candy in this life!*** You can escape Satan's trap through knowing Jesus, walking with Him, following Him, trusting Him, knowing His Word & His way. Jesus is the only way to avoid it.

### BIBLE VERSES

Jn 10:10a *Jesus said, "the thief (the devil) comes only to rob, kill & destroy..."*

2Cor 11:14b *"Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light"*

Prov 12:15 (NIRV) *The way of foolish people seems right to them. But those who are wise listen to advice.*

Mt 7:13b-14 (CEV) *Jesus said, "The gate to destruction is wide, and the road that leads there is easy to follow. A lot of people go through that gate. But the gate to life is very narrow. The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few people find it"*

1Cor 15:57 *But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ps 119:105 (NIRV) *God, Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.*

James 1:5 *If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God & it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking.*

1Cor 10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

1Thes 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Gal 6:1 *Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you like chocolate? If so, what's your favorite chocolate candy?

2. What did you think about the skit tonight? Were you ever tempted by bad options like the people in the skit? What happened?

3. Read Jn 10:10a & 2Cor 11:14b. How is sin like a chocolate-covered dog poo? Name some things that are like chocolate-covered poo. How does the devil use deception & temptation to convince people to "eat the poo"? Where does it lead?

4. Read Prov 12:15 & Mt 7:13-14. Why are so many people tricked by Satan into falling into sin & eating life's chocolate poo?

5a. Yes or no: if you were being deceived or tricked by someone, but didn't realize it, would you want to know?

5b. Yes or no: do you want to know if you're being deceived by the devil & the world (*the devil's advocate*) to go down a path of sin & destruction?

5c. Yes or no: do you want to eat the dog poo of sin & destruction that Satan & the world is offering you?

6. Thanks to Jesus, you don't have to go down the road of sin, destruction & death. Read the follow verses & discuss how God can help us identify & avoid the devil's temptations & deceptions: 1Cor 15:57; Ps 119:105; Jas 1:5; 1Cor 10:13; 1Thess 5:11.

7. **BONUS QUESTION:** Read Gal 6:1. If you saw one of your friends about to eat a chocolate-covered dog poo, what would you do? What would you do if you saw your friend being deceived by the devil & the world & falling into a sinful/harmful behavior?