

Temptation and Sin

- **Temptation:** The process by which we are drawn toward desires or actions contrary to God's will.
- **Sin:** Not just actions, but the orientation of the heart—a failure to align with God's loving purposes.

**MATTHEW
17:22-18:9**



MATTHEW 17:22 - 18:9

Second passion prediction

- Jesus predicts his death and resurrection.
- Disciples' response: Grieved, still focused on death rather than resurrection

The Temple Tax

- Jesus is exempt from the tax as the Son of God.
- Jesus provides for the tax to avoid causing offense and stumbling others.
- Cause offense - stumble into sin

**MATTHEW
17:22-18:9**



MATTHEW 17:22 - 18:9

Who is the Greatest?

- **Disciples' Question:** “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
- **Jesus' Answer:** Become like a child—humble, dependent, and trusting.

Leading Others Astray

- Don't cause others to stumble or fall into sin.
- “Better to have a millstone tied around your neck...” (Matthew 18:6)
- Take extreme measures to avoid sin (cut off what causes you to sin).

**MATTHEW
17:22-18:9**



What is Jesus doing?

- Jesus avoids causing others to stumble into sin.
- Jesus warns about leading His children astray.
- Jesus urges His disciples to take extreme measures to avoid sin in their own lives.

MATTHEW
17:22-18:9



Jesus' message:

"Don't be the one who stands between Me and those I love."

We stand between God and others.

- We are all making disciples of something or someone.

We stand between God and ourselves.

- We are our own worst enemy.



**MATTHEW
17:22-18:9**



Three Great Enemies of the Soul

The World:

“Woe to the world through whom temptations come.”

The Flesh:

“Sin is crouching at your door.”
(Genesis 4)

The Devil:

“Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

MATTHEW
17:22-18:9



How do we participate?

We don't need to fight harder, but we must not retreat.

Exodus 14:13-14

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Don't retreat to the darkness

- going to the feet of Jesus asking for mercy

**MATTHEW
17:22-18:9**

