

**The Schemes of the Devil**  
**John 18:12-27**  
**August 30, 2026**

How does temptation come?

Are we ready for spiritual warfare?

**Jesus: bound for trial/ sacrifice, vv. 12-14**

Our text begins and ends with Jesus bound.

Why is that significant?

**Who were Annas and Caiaphas?**

Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas and a former high priest. v. 13

He was the power behind the Sanhedrin; and he was a thief.

If this was not a formal trial, what was the purpose of Annas’ questioning?

Had they already prejudged the case? (John 11:47-53)

**Peter was warming himself by the sinners’ fire, vv. 15-18**

Peter was standing in the way of sinners. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Peter had been bold, blunt, and self-confident. (Matthew 26:33-35; John 13:37-38)

Jesus had declared, “I am,” but Peter now says, “I am not.” (John 18:5-6; 17)

**Jesus’ defense before Annas, vv. 19-24**

Jesus remains composed and in control as He answers Annas’ questioning.

In effect, Jesus answers, “I have spoken openly; I have nothing to hide.” (John 18:20-21)

Who is the real high priest?

**Peter continues his fall. vv. 25-27**

“You don’t follow Jesus, do you?” Have you been asked that question?

**We all have failed the Lord and fallen for the schemes of the devil.**

By a lack of submission to God

By trusting ourselves and not the Lord. Ignoring our weakness.

By not knowing there is a battle going on!

By fearing people more than we fear God. (Proverbs 29:25)

Jesus knew the Father’s plan and submitted to it, though doing so was painfully difficult.

Jesus continually depended upon His Father.

Jesus knew the enemy and wrestled in prayer to gain the victory before the crisis hit.

Jesus feared God, not man, and bore faithful witness to these sinners.

Are you ready for the spiritual warfare that you are in?

**Meditation**

**Battling Temptation**

**Renew your mind.** Temptation is a battle of the mind. We often lose when temptation comes, because we give up too much territory before the battle ever begins. Paul admonishes, “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). You can easily fall, if you have faulty thinking about yourself, temptation, and sin. You must renew your mind: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable, and perfect” (Romans 12:2). Victory over temptation (requires) the spiritual power of a renewed mind: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8)...

**Avoid Temptation.** Warning against sinful temptations, Solomon asked, “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?” (Proverbs 6:27-28) These rhetorical questions assume a negative answer. Likewise, they teach us that the best way to gain victory over temptation is to avoid it altogether. It is foolish to stick your hand into a fire and then pray for strength, protection, or intervention. If you do not want to be burned, stay away from the fire! And if you want to resist temptation, stay away from places, practices, and, yes, people that feed your temptations. Paul exhorts, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Romans 13:14). Avoid temptation. Don’t trust yourself. Don’t stick your hand into the fire. Don’t give your flesh any opportunity to gratify its desires...

**Set Your Desires on Godly Satisfaction.** “Just follow your heart,” may seem like good advice. But it is actually the worst advice anyone can give you. Our hearts are deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9). And left to their natural devices, our hearts will inevitably lead us astray. Victory over temptation requires that we set our hearts on something above and beyond us (Colossians 3:1-2). We must set our affections on God. David wrote, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). If you delight in the Lord, He will teach your heart what to desire and fulfill those godly desires. Temptation cannot lead you astray when your delight is in God, not the things of this world. Moses prays, “Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” (Psalm 90:14). True joy is only found in the satisfaction of living in the loyal love of God in Christ.

HB Charles Jr.