

Sharpening the Sword

#6 (v 1.0)

Golden Scripture #1

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Application: God won't tempt us above what we are able

Golden Scripture #2

1 Nephi 15:24

24 And I said unto them that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.

Application: Reading the scriptures and holding fast to them provides protection from temptation.

Story/Scripture Chain #1:

Alma 47:4-19

4 Now behold, this was the desire of Amalickiah; for he being a very subtle man to do evil therefore he laid the plan in his heart to dethrone the king of the Lamanites.

5 And now he had got the command of those parts of the Lamanites who were in favor of the king; and he sought to gain favor of those who were not obedient; therefore he went forward to the place which was called Onidah, for thither had all the Lamanites fled; for they discovered the army coming, and, supposing that they were coming to destroy them, therefore they fled to Onidah, to the place of arms.

[the plan]: Image of a map

6 And they had appointed a man to be a king and a leader over them, being fixed in their minds with a determined resolution that they would not be subjected to go against the Nephites.

7 And it came to pass that they had gathered themselves together upon the top of the mount which was called Antipas, in preparation to battle.

[Lehonti on the hill]: image of mount with arrow pointing to the top

8 Now it was not Amalickiah's intention to give them battle according to the commandments of the king; but behold, it was his intention to gain favor with the armies of the Lamanites, that he might place himself at their head and dethrone the king and take possession of the kingdom.

9 And behold, it came to pass that he caused his army to pitch their tents in the valley which was near the mount Antipas.

[the plan]: Image of a map

10 And it came to pass that when it was night he sent a secret embassy into the mount Antipas, desiring that the leader of those who were upon the mount, whose name was Lehonti, that he should come down to the foot of the mount, for he desired to speak with him.

11 And it came to pass that when Lehonti received the message he durst not go down to the foot of the mount. And it came to pass that Amalickiah sent again the second time, desiring him to come down. And it came to pass that Lehonti would not; and he sent again the third time.

[temptation]: image of an apple

12 And it came to pass that when Amalickiah found that he could not get Lehonti to come down off from the mount, he went up into the mount, nearly to Lehonti's camp; and he sent again the fourth time his message unto Lehonti, desiring that he would come down, and that he would bring his guards with him.

13 And it came to pass that when Lehonti had come down with his guards to Amalickiah, that Amalickiah desired him to come down with his army in the night-time, and surround those men in their camps over whom the king had given him command, and that he would deliver them up into Lehonti's hands, if he would make him (Amalickiah) a second leader over the whole army.

[left position of strength]: Image of mount with arrow pointing halfway down

14 And it came to pass that Lehonti came down with his men and surrounded the men of Amalickiah, so that before they awoke at the dawn of day they were surrounded by the armies of Lehonti.

15 And it came to pass that when they saw that they were surrounded, they pled with Amalickiah that he would suffer them to fall in with their brethren, that they might not be destroyed. Now this was the very thing which Amalickiah desired.

16 And it came to pass that he delivered his men, contrary to the commands of the king. Now this was the thing that Amalickiah desired, that he might accomplish his designs in dethroning the king.

[gave into temptation]: image of bitten apple

17 Now it was the custom among the Lamanites, if their chief leader was killed, to appoint the second leader to be their chief leader.

18 And it came to pass that Amalickiah caused that one of his servants should administer poison by degrees to Lehonti, that he died.

19 Now, when Lehonti was dead, the Lamanites appointed Amalickiah to be their leader and their chief commander.

[poison by degrees]: image of poison skull

Application: Fighting temptation is easy from a position of strength- once you leave your position of strength and play on the devil's playground you are much more susceptible to fall. Giving into temptation and dying spiritually is "by degrees".

Story/Scripture Chain #2:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (p.1209), Mark 4:1-9, 13-20 (p.1246), Luke 8:4-8, 11-15 (p.1288)

7 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

8 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

9 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

10 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

11 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

12 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

15 The sower soweth the word.

16 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

17 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

18 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution or temptation ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

20 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

21 And these are they which are sown on good ground; they are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, understand and receive it, and endure; which also bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

image: alternate colors to show different groups and number them (matching description to explanation)

Application. The seed's ability to grow is based on us the listener. Depending on what soil we give it determines the outcome.

Fire Scriptures of the Day.

1 Nephi 16:1-3

1 And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had made an end of speaking to my brethren, behold they said unto me: Thou hast declared unto us hard things, more than we are able to bear.

2 And it came to pass that I said unto them that I knew that I had spoken hard things against the wicked, according to the truth; and the righteous have I justified, and testified that they should be lifted up at the last day; wherefore, the guilty taketh the truth to be hard, for it cutteth them to the very center.

3 And now my brethren, if ye were righteous and were willing to hearken to the truth, and give heed unto it, that ye might walk uprightly before God, then ye would not murmur because of the truth, and say: Thou speakest hard things against us.

Application. There are no "hard words" beyond what we are "able to bear", there are simply things that we are willing to do and things we are unwilling to do.

Example of "story drawing images":



Example of "Fire":

