

## "Beauty & the Beast"



### Our Scripture Passages for Today

#### 1 John 2:15-17 (TNIV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If you love the world, love for the Father is not in you. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful people, the lust of their eyes and their boasting about what they have and do — comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

### Message Notes

#### A. Introduction

*Deniro's Deviled Egg (from the film - Angel Heart)*

#### B. Insights from 1 John 2:15-17

1. Lust of the flesh - *to be dominated by one's physical appetites, seeking to satisfy these in selfish and ungodly ways*
2. Lust of the eyes - *to be governed by the love of and coveting after beautiful things*
3. Pride of Life - *to be driven by pride over achievements and possessions*

#### C. Prayer Response

#### D. Helpful resource for overcoming temptation: <http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com/>

### Take-Home - Individual or Small Group Study Questions

#### Knowing Our Enemy: Matthew 4:1-11

*Disguise and camouflage are important tactics in warfare, but they can also be used for evil purposes. Enemy spies sometimes disguise their faces to hide their identity. We should not be surprised to learn, therefore, that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, and his followers pretend to be servants of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).*

*When Satan came to Jesus, he tried to disguise his real purposes by offering sugar-coated temptations. He uses this same tactic against the followers of Jesus today. This study shows how Jesus saw through and resisted the enemy's clever strategy.*

1. On what occasions have you felt spiritually strong and elated, only to experience defeat? Why do you think this sometimes happens?
2. Read Matthew 4:1-11. At Jesus' baptism, God declared, "This is my Son" (Matthew 3:17). How does Satan seize that announcement as a way of tempting Jesus (vv. 3, 6)?
3. To what human desires does Satan appeal in each of the three temptations (vv. 2-3, 5-6, 8-9)?
4. How has Satan used these desires to tempt you?
5. When are you most vulnerable to the enemy?
6. What does this passage reveal about the enemy's:
  - a. persistence (see also Luke 4:13)
  - b. subtlety
  - c. use of Scripture
  - d. goals
7. Why and how did Jesus resist each temptation (vv. 4, 7, 10)?
8. Jesus resisted Satan's subtle, persistent temptations by:
  - a. using Scripture
  - b. clarifying the issues
  - c. choosing to obey God
  - d. commanding Satan to leaveThink of a temptation you are facing. How can you use Jesus' weapons to resist that temptation?
9. Thank Jesus for his example and power in defeating the enemy. Pray that you will be able to recognize the enemy's attacks and resist him as Jesus did.

#### Between Studies

To help you recognize the enemy and his tactics, use a journal this week to record the tactics you recognize Satan using against you. Record, too, how you use Jesus' weapons to resist Satan.

For further study into the enemy's identity, read Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:11-17. They give some insight into Satan's rebellion that caused him to be thrown out of heaven.

For further study into the enemy's tactics, read Genesis 3:1-21, which describes Satan's basic approach to humanity and the results.