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# Daily Devotional - Thursday, February 6, 2025 - Guard Against the World

FEBRUARY 06TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

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When I was young, while fishing with my father and grandfather, I hooked a large muskie. My little fishing pole bent under the strain, but I managed to reel it in close to our boat. But the muskie escaped before we could get it in the net, and it became “the one that got away” in family stories for many years after.

In this world, we are a lot like that muskie, tempted by colorful baits and lures. In Proverbs 1, we read about evil men enticing a person to “ambush some harmless soul” (v. 11). They’re scheming to rob, swindle, or otherwise exploit their victim for their own greedy and selfish purposes. It sounds like a criminal plan, and it is, but there’s more to it than that. This is basically the way our fallen world works. Fallen people tend to “look out for #1” and do whatever they can get away with.

How should we as followers of Christ respond to worldly temptations? First, we should stand our ground. “Do not give in to them” (v. 10), wrote Solomon. “Do not set foot on their paths” (v. 15). Second, we need to keep our eyes open. Those who choose evil are spiritually blind (v. 17). Even a bird can see and avoid a net or trap set in plain sight, but not the “sinful men” in this narrative. Wrong goals, wrong methods,

wrong actions, wrong results—all these temptations are to be righteously avoided. After all, sin is self-defeating: “They ambush only themselves!” (v. 18).

Proverbs 16:29 summarizes: “A violent person entices their neighbor and leads them down a path that is not good.” Finally, the best defenses against such temptations include wisdom, versus the foolishness behind wickedness; and love of God, versus the love of power and material benefit behind worldliness (see also 1 John 2:15–17).

What colorful but dangerous “lures” are we sometimes tempted with? According to Solomon, what is our best defense against temptation?

Christ Jesus, Your love and wisdom are the best defenses against temptation. Help us remember that when we face temptations, Your love protects us, and Your wisdom shows a way out. May we walk in Your truth!

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