



**SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, 02/05/2022**

**Scripture: James 1:13**

**TITLE: Did God Make You Do It?**

One of the more humorous and tragic paintings is The Rebuke of Adam and Eve. The picture captures Genesis 3:12 perfectly. Thereafter, Adam and Eve sin, Adam begins to deflect responsibility for his sin and he says, “God, it’s your fault. I mean, you put the woman here. She led me astray.”

You see, when we get caught in sin, our first instinct is to pass the blame. We pass it onto someone else and ultimately on God. But is it God’s fault when we fall prey to temptation?

James answers that question definitively in James 1:13 (CSB).

*No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone.*

James seems to have this past event at the forefront of his mind. And perhaps it’s the pastor in him to prepare for the excuses of those in his care. But it’s not my fault. I mean, God put me in that situation. It must have been His will, I stumble.

James says, “Just stop right there. No. No one can say that God is to be blamed for your temptation. God tempts no one. One commentator said, to say such a thing is anathema. Why is this illogical and offensive to God? It’s because God cannot be tempted by evil. God cannot and will tempt anyone.

Instead, we must take responsibility for our sins. And better yet, choose to find a way out.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.*”

God will always provide a way out from temptation caused by our gullibility, foolishness, or trials. Our trials are meant to grow us up and mature us, not to make or lure us to sin.

So here’s my challenge for you today: If you’re tempted to sin because of your trial, sincerely ask God for help. God will always provide a way of escape. We can and should. But often, we want the excuse to get away with our sin. Well, temptation and trials will never cut it. Nothing will.

So ask God for help and then begin to flee temptation. When we call out for help in our time of need, God wins the day for us.