

Bank It

Video Clip from Visual Reality: Memory Check but pause at: 38

Ask the following questions to open up today's topic.

- Who can remember at least 10 phone numbers?
- Who can remember 10 street names?
- Who can remember movie lines?
- Who can remember at least one song's lyrics all the way through?
- Who can name every starting player for their favorite team?

Who has at least one, two, three, four, or more scriptures committed to memory?

Video Clip from Visual Reality: Memory Check (play all the way through)

God created our minds and its their complexity. He gave us the ability to memorize great amounts of information. The Bible is the only rule or measure we will be judged by, and following the Bible will keep us from sinning. We know less on the Bible than any of the others. The challenge tonight is to establish a regular pattern of memorizing the Bible.

Make a homemade version of Jeopardy. Select some great student subjects like movies, music, cartoons, sports, and Bible. It will be shocking to see how many they will expire off the board while leaving the Bible category until last. Why? They really know the least about this subject. How frightening it will be if we don't help them to see how important God's Word is. This message will hopefully assist in emphasizing the importance of hiding the word away so that we may not slip into sin.

David, Soloman, Moses, Sons of Korah, and the orphan Psalms (means they were anonymous) wrote the Psalms. These two were written by anonymous writers.

Psalm 119:11 (The Message) ¹¹I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.

Illustration: Gather four really ridiculous children's banks and fill them with something. Make sure one is empty. This will be their Bible bank. (It will be empty) I went to the dollar store and bought four Tootsie Roll banks. They were already filled with Tootsie Rolls. Mark on the outside four subjects that students are banking.

There is a popular game show called "Weakest Link." The key to the game is to first know the answers, and then when your team gets some money moving, you must bank it. Failure to bank it will probably cost you as much as not knowing the answers. This game show makes for a powerful illustration of the need to learn to bank it!

>> Bank One – Knowledge

Students are becoming very smart. In the future, this will enable them to get better paying jobs or great acceptance into the school of their choice. Show them they will continue banking a lot by throwing the Tootsie Rolls into the crowd.

>> Bank Two – Social

They are working very hard at filling the social bank. Many will draw from that in the future or even now. Show them they have banked a lot by throwing the Tootsie Rolls into the crowd.

>> Bank Three – Possessions/Money

Ask them how many have \$100 in the bank. Keep going up the scale to show them how much they have banked. Show them they have banked a lot by throwing the Tootsie Rolls into the crowd.

>>Bank Four -- Bible

Noticing that they have very little banked from the Bible and therefore probably have nothing to show for it, show them they have banked a lot by throwing into the crowd.

EXCEPTION! This one is empty. Demonstrate it the exact same way but show the power of the text! What are we banking? If nothing is going in, then what can come out?

No Deposit-----No Withdrawal

(New King James Version) ¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 1:2 (New King James Version) ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

- The law the writer is referring to is the Bible
- Memorizing doesn't give us the stop-all for sinning, but it will surely make it easier to not be fooled by the enemy.

Let's compare two incidents of how two people dealt with the temptations or sin that was presented to them.

Eve Responds to Temptation

Genesis 3 (New King James Version) ¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

- The serpent knew God had declared the tree off limits. Boundaries!

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." ⁴ Then the serpent said

to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Tricks Satan will Use - the World View!

It's good for you.

- Not everything that is presented is bad for you. It just may not be what's best for you.
- It looks good causing us to think it's probably good for us.
- You will gain if you do it.
 - A lot of things are desirable, irresistible, and fun, but that doesn't make it right for us.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Movie Clip: Napoleon Dynamite Chapter 9, 27:00-28:00

Uncle Rico has some serious regrets about the way his life in high school played out. If we are not careful, we'll be no different from how he was. Regret the past. We must be putting the Word away so we can see more than what we think we are seeing.

Many of us have sinned ourselves bankrupt!

Jesus Responds to Temptation

Matthew 4 (New King James Version) ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

- At Jesus' weakest moment Satan appealed to his greatest need/want.
- Jesus was coming off of a 40-day fast.
- Satan knows our weakest moments.

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." ⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you, and, "In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, "You shall not tempt the LORD your God." ⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve." ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

>>01. Satan's Plan

Satan knows the limits God has established. He'll do all he can to get you to compromise. He is ready with a three-step plan. Eve went down in step A. Jesus didn't fall in all three steps. If you don't fall for Satan's deception plan A, then he'll

have a back-up plan B. If that doesn't work, he'll get you with the C plan.

- Eve was at a "need-for-more" status.
 - We all have a built-in continual desire for more. Some of this is from the fact that we all have limits placed on us. We will always push to the edge of our limits. Some of this is about an inner desire to explore. Either way we check this in our spirits.
 - Many students they will turn their back on so much and not even know they had just fallen for Satan's Plan A.
- Jesus was coming off of a fast. A spiritual high!
 - Satan will temp you now more than ever if you've made an honest effort to improve your spiritual status.

>>01a. Eve Could Only See the Good in the Temptation-only what she was losing if she didn't act now.

- She was hungry. What are you hungry for?
- Good food, fulfilling to her eyes, increase in knowledge

Gen.3 ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise,

- She looked from the world view. Reason? Having nothing to draw from except world view and perspective. How many of us have a

wealth of information memorized from the world view and not the God view?

- The Bible mentions nothing of what she may have thought the consequences might be.

>>01b. Jesus Could Only See the Bad in the Temptation

- Jesus was being pressured by the I-double-dare-you syndrome.
- When I was young, my cousin would always get me to do the stupidest things! All he had to do was say, "You can't or won't do it."
- I was attention seeking. Self-seeking! Eve was self-seeking //Jesus was God seeking.

Matt 4:3 Now, when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

- Jesus didn't fall for the just-hurt-yourself lie.
 - How many of our students have or are thinking of taking their own lives?

Matt 4:6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down

- Jesus wasn't willing to worship anything except the father.

Matt 4:9, And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

- Satan is not telling you to turn your back on God. Instead he is just leading and distracting you to walk away yourself.

>>.02 God's Plan

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

To overcome temptation

- Hide the Word

Psalm 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not **sin against thee.**

- **God's Plan is that we SIN NOT!**

In Closing:

How will we know if we are spiritually bankrupt? Did Eve even know what she didn't see? If we are not careful, we too may be falling into Satan's trap of deception and not even know it.

Some of us have become like Eve in that we can't see the wrong in what we desire or do. We have placed ourselves in a very dangerous place. The only thing that will give us better vision is the Word. Spending time in the Word will cause us to be aware of the temptations that have become a regular agenda of Satan.

Take this time to evaluate your ministry programs! Have you as a leader made this a priority? Find a way to make this a top priority in your ministry and establish an accountability program with your students and leaders to become not just hearers of the Word but doers and memorizers of the WORD!

Bank It

Who has at least one scripture committed to memory? Write it out.

Psalm 119:11 (The Message) ¹¹I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.

>>Bank One – K_____

>>Bank Two – S_____

>>Bank Three—P _____/M_____

>>Bank Four – B_____

No Deposit-----No Withdrawal

(New King James Version) ¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 1:2 (New King James Version) ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Many of us have sinned ourselves bankrupt!

Bank It

Who has at least one scriptures committed to memory, write it out.

Psalm 119:11 (The Message) ¹¹I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.

>>Bank One – K_____

>>Bank Two – S_____

>>Bank Three – P _____/M_____

>>Bank Four – B_____

No Deposit-----No Withdrawal

(New King James Version) ¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 1:2 (New King James Version) ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Many of us have sinned ourselves bankrupt!



—