



Have you ever felt tempted? Maybe it was that piece of cake. Maybe it was looking at something you know you shouldn't look at. Maybe it was another person's spouse, or the ability to make some money in a shady way. Temptation, at its core, is really the appeal of circumventing God's way, to accomplish what we ourselves want to accomplish. It's the appeal to use the wrong method to satisfy what might be a legitimate need. Let's explore how different God's ways are from our own, as this season of emptying ourselves draws us closer to Him.

Read: Jeremiah 2:13

This verse can at first seem rather cryptic and odd. In ancient times, a cistern was a type of a reservoir, a tank or cave used for storing water. With that understanding, let's look into what God was speaking through Jeremiah to the people.

How does the water contained in a cistern differ from the water offered by God?

What are the two sins mentioned? What do you think Jeremiah is really saying here?

What can we learn about the level of trust in God the Israelites displayed in their action here?

Read: James 1:13-17

What big truths does James tell us about temptation here?

What do we learn from these two biblical passages about what God has to offer us as compared to our own desires?

How often do your own desires change? Have you noticed any patterns over time?

What is it that you think triggers your change in desires?

How does God's consistency compare to our own?

Take it deeper: (you can do this on your own, or with your group if there is time)

Read: Isaiah 55:6-11

Consider how God's thoughts differ from your own, how His ways differ from your own.

In what ways do you see yourself veering away from God most often?

Ask God to transform your ways and your thoughts to more closely match His own, as you fill yourself with Him in intentional ways during this season.

Prayer:

Father, my thoughts are not Your thoughts, and my ways are not Your ways...but I want them to be! Lord, refine me, transform me, and make my heart look more like Yours. When I am tempted to go my own way, help me to instead trust You. You are the Living Water that will never run dry, and You can sustain me far better than I ever could. Thank You for Your Word and for Your presence, and I ask that You would fill me again even now.

Amen.