

The Common Man

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Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word. Because brother, you need the Word. And I want you to stay with us for just a few minutes today. We're going to be speaking on a subject that's common to all of us. Stay tuned.

Studying from the book of 1 Corinthians chapter 10, the first through the 13th verse, the NIV version. "For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert."

"Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: 'The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.' We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did -- and in one day 23,000 of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did -- and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did -- and were killed by the destroying angels."

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

And I want to speak for a few minutes today from the subject of The Common Man. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, the King James Version that we are familiar with, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

There is no temptation that you face that's not common to man. Turn to the person sitting next to you and tell them, "You not going through anything new." You know, sometimes we think that we're the only someone that this has happened. "Lord, I'm

the only person on the face of the earth. Why am I going through this?" "Why is my man acting up. Lord, I'm the only woman on the face of the earth whose man is acting up." You are not going through anything new.

There is no temptation that's not come on the man. The Bible uses the term man here generically, meaning mankind, because women, you all know you're all going through some stuff too. We all go through some things, but there is nothing that we go through that's new. That's why Ecclesiastes said, there is nothing new under the sun.

Do you think there's anything here that's new because we have some modern technologies, that there's not ancient? The only thing new that we have that they didn't have back then is probably internet pornography. That's about the only thing. But back then, they saw it live. So, and often they saw it live even in the temples of Baal. So even though we may have a slight technological twist, there is nothing new under the sun. Do you think drug addiction is something that's new to just the modern -
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Now we have some drugs now that they didn't have then, but people, folk have been getting high since the dawn of time. Do you think it is anything new? Now they may not have had amphetamines, and they may not have had PCP, but they have some weed. Oh yes, they did! Men found every weed and every root, and every hoot and toot that could get them high throughout time!

There's just nothing new under the sun. And still even with all of the drug addiction that we have today, by far the number one intoxicant, there's nothing, there's nothing even close as alcohol. Alcohol is #1 among teenagers. If you look at most of the homicides, alcohol is involved in 60 percent of them. It's involved in most of the fatal car accidents. So even though we got all these much, and you all know whiskey old -- do you know wine is old? That stuff has been here since the dawn of time. When Noah, after God had destroyed the earth, and then Noah came out of the ark, Noah got drunk. You all think this stuff is new?

There is nothing new that we have not faced in the past. And so God says, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man." And oftentimes we feel so isolated. That Lord, I'm just the only one going through all of this. You look around, look at the person sitting next to you. Just look at them. They're going through something. They're going through something. Look at them; I don't care how sharp they're looking. I don't care how big the smile is on their face. I don't care how well-coiffed their hair is. They're going through something. There is nothing that we don't face, that you, all of us, face some common temptation. Now, they may vary a little bit in their very essence and nature, but all of us face some common temptation and some common problems.

When we have the men's ministry, one of the things that came out of the men's ministry, as the men got together and just talked, the thing that happened is that the men said, "I didn't realize that all the rest of these men, they're having the same issues that have. I thought I was all alone." And they found it in every one of the men, once they got to opening up. They were all facing almost the identical situations, and the identical problems.

And the same thing happened within the women's ministry. When the women got together and they began to talk, and they began to expose, they discovered that they were all facing common problems. We all deal with common temptations. So that's an established fact. But what you have to understand is, God says this. He says that God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able to handle. And that means this: Whatever you have in your life, you can handle it. Or else God is a liar.

Whatever you have in your life, He says He will not suffer you to be tempted more than you can handle. Turn to the person sitting next to you and tell them, "You can handle it." So you may be going through something, but based on the word of God -- and people, when stuff start beating you down, when stuff start getting on your neck, when it looks like you're about to break, you need to open your Bible, you need to go to First Corinthians, you need to turn to that verse, that tenth chapter, that thirteenth verse, and you need to read what God says. It says but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able. So no matter how much is on your back, God has said in his

word, I will not put on you more than you can handle. You can handle it.

And this stuff is common unto men. And Paul said that, now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did, and were written down as warnings to us. That's why when you understand just a glimpse of God's plan, because you can't understand it all, but when you just understand a glimpse, you'll see that God has more top purposes for things. And even when God had to put those folks through all that mess back then,

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He says, I'm going to do this as an example and as a warning so people, thousands of years down the road, we'll be able to see the example. And those who would hate it, they will not make the same mistake. And I'm putting this as a warning to you, and as an example to you, so you won't make the same error. And you see, people, when you can look at the examples of another person, you don't have to go through it yourself.

See, to be honest, I cannot live long enough to make all the mistakes in life. Number one, I won't live that long, and number two, I don't want to go through it. Turn to the person sitting next to you, say, "I don't want to go through it." See, I want to be honest with you people, that's why I tell you right now, I don't want one of the big long testimony about with all the mess I'm going through. I don't want one. I want -- do you know what I want to me to do? I want to me to look at the example, and see, "I want to do that."

That's what I want to be. See, people, God had set some examples before you, and he set some bad examples before you too. That's what these were. They were bad examples, when He's out putting these examples before you as an example and as a warning, so you will not go the same path. You do not have to go through all of this stuff. But you need to be able to look and see some examples, as in "Mm-mmm. I don't want to go through that."

Oftentimes -- I had a submission on Mountain Wings, and it was right after the issue where I talked about the three brands that were the most, the three most valuable brands in America. Number one is Marlboro, number two is Coca-Cola, and number

three is Budweiser. I said all three of them, those are the three most valuable brands in America, and all three of them are bad for you.

And a lady rolled in, telling me how she just smoked cigarettes for 35 years. And she said she smoked because she grew up in a household where everyone around her smoked. And she had three daughters, and she couldn't stop smoking, but she drilled it into her daughters, don't smoke. Don't smoke. And the lady says she now has terminal COPD, she's dying. And the doctors told her if she stopped smoking, it would relieve some of her breathing problems. And she said she still can't stop, and she's dying.

But she said the thing that hurt her most, was all three of her daughters, who she brought up and told and drilled, don't do this, don't do this, don't do this, all three of her daughters came in the house smoking. Because oftentimes, people, we don't heed the example. And even the daughters saw the example of the mother, and they saw the mother getting sick, and they saw the mother dying. And still, they didn't heed the example.

So God says, I did this as an example and as a warning to you, lest ye go the same path. And in this, there are four areas, of which Paul talks about. And these four things are similar to what God had me preach on last Sunday. It's the sermon entitled PMS. And that sermon is number 5220. And these four things, the first thing in verse number 7 of 1 Corinthians 10, he says, "Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."

He said, don't be idolaters. Do you know that's a temptation that's common demand? It's the temptation of idolatry. And I know some of you will say, "Well pastor, I don't have any idol." Yes you do. When you look at what happened and what the Bible was specifically referring to in Exodus 32, beginning at the first verse, "When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain. And you know the story. They gathered around Aaron and said, 'Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't what has happened to him.'"

People, have you all ever had a situation where you were waiting on the deliverance and you don't know what happened to it? I mean, you're in a jam, and you've been waiting a long time?

Moses up on the mountain, they're out in the wilderness. And they said, see, especially on the 39th day. Man's been up there, they don't know when he's coming back because he didn't say, I'll be back in 40 days. He just -- see, you all have some folk and have some stuff in your life is that you don't know when it's coming back.

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There's not a time limit. So the folk says, the man who brought us out, our leader, our deliverer, we don't know what happened to him.

That's one reason people why you can never fully depend on a man. Turn to the person sitting next to you, "You can't count on a man." You have to understand that. You can't fully depend on a man. Moses was the meekest, the most humble man on earth, but you can't depend on a man. They said, we don't know what happened to Moses. And as a result, they were dependent on a man, and when the man didn't come back, they got all frustrated.

Do you know that's a common thing that hasn't changed any? Some folk right now waiting on a man? Depending on a man? You can't depend on a man. That's nothing new about anything. Now, I'm not saying there's not a lot of good men. But all men have flaws. You can't depend on a man. And a man will be up one minute, and he'll be down the next one. He'll be in a good mood this minute, he'll be in a bad mood the next. He'll bring his check home this week, you won't see the check next week. You can't depend on a man.

You have to be able to depend on the One who is always constant, who never changes. And that's what happened. They had -- they're out on a man. And even though he's a good man, he was gone for a season. And they didn't know when he was coming back. Anything could have happened to the old man. Man gets there, gets sick. Anything could happen to the old man. You can't depend on a man.

We don't know what has happened to him. "Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape

of a calf, fashioning it with the tools. Then they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, 'Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord.'"

Idols. And let me tell you even the significance of the calf. See, Wall Street worships the golden calf. That's why if you understand the stock market, they call it the bull and the bear. The bull market simply means that the market is going up, it's charging forth. The bear market means that the market is going down, it's hibernating. The bull is nothing but an adult calf. And that's the idol of Wall Street.

How many of us have the idol of money now? I mean, money is powerful, don't it -- and you need it. But how many of us have placed money above God? How many of us will do some things for money that we know is just not quite right? And even when people want to retire, that's placing an idol, because God says, give me just a piece of the -- you have placed the money above God. He says, don't commit the sin of idolatry.

And this is the deep part that I had never seen, had seen the story, had read this verse, I don't know how many times, but I've never saw this until this morning. And this is the verse that opened my eyes. It was the fifth verse of the 32nd Chapter of Exodus. When Aaron saw this, after he had built the golden calf, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival of the Lord." Aaron made an altar to God right in front of the golden calf.

Too often, we try to hide that demonic, devilish stuff, and cover it up with some stuff of the Lord. He made an altar for God right in front of the golden calf. Sometimes we come in church, and we try to cover up all the mess we're doing out of church by just praising in church. You try to make an altar in front of the demonic stuff you got in the back. You got to clean that back stuff up. And sometimes -- he made an altar right in front of -- and you have no business making an altar for God until you first of all destroy those altars to Satan that you've made. And we've got too much of that stuff going on now in the church. Coming and trying to look all holy in church, and you got an altar made to Satan at home.

Well you want to put the altar for God right out in front, so folk can see you, but in the dark, you all turn to neighbor, say, in the dark. So you see, in the dark, there's some stuff going on in the dark that you think God does not see. But He sees it.

Second thing. Verse number 8, he says, We should not commit sexual immorality, the King James Version says fornication, as some of them did. You all turn to you your neighbor and tell them, "As some of them did."

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See, that was them. That's not you. That was what some of them did that were committing that fornication, and having that illicit sex, as some of them did. And in one day, 23,000 of them died. There is just the part, people have just -- that's why the sermon that God had me preach last week, PMS, dealing with Pride, Money and Sex. You need to go and listen to that sermon number 5220 to hear that also. But that's sex that I talked about in the last sermon. It's deep in the church.

And not only is the sex, it's sacred(ph) gotten twisted. So it's not, and it's not just sex, it's twisted sex is in the middle of the church. And God just killed 23,000 of them, he said as an example. Now, people, do you know what would happen right now if God were to strike dead everyone in the church that were having an illicit sex? Whoo! You all just say Whoo! And if God were to strike dead right now, you all better thank God this is the New Testament. Because if God were to strike -- I'm not talking about the people who had illicit sex and everything. I'm talking about the people who are having illicit sex right now.

Not only would a whole lot of the congregation be wiped clean, they have to care for folks at the pulpit. This stuff would get deep. So thank goodness we're in a different dispensation. But God's Spirit has not changed, and we know, we read God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. That's the same God who looked down in that stuff, and struck the folk dead. He's not as bit more pleased with us now.

So that was the second thing that Paul said. The sexual immorality. And number three in verse nine, he says we should not test the Lord, as some of them did, and were killed by snakes.

And the fourth thing he said, "And do not grumble," as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.

And when you read that third and fourth ones were in similar veins. That's in Numbers 21 verses 4 to 6. It reads in the New Living Translation, "Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient along the way, and they began to murmur against God and Moses. 'Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?' they complained. 'There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. We hate this wretched manna!' So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among them, and many of them were bitten and died."

Do you know death will occur in your world when you do not appreciate what God has given you? And so why are you giving us this wretched manna? It was bread from heaven, not a single one of them got sick. None of them died, He kept them in perfect health, but they were complaining because they wanted something different. And some of you, God has blessed you and see, you got manna. It's sustaining you, but it's not what you want. So you want some steak, they wanted some quail, they wanted some meat, and God, all God was sending was the bread. But the bread kept -- and they begin to curse the bread. God said, "I'll show you, if you curse what I sent you, sustaining you."

No, you don't have a mansion, but you have a place to lay your head. And sometimes we'll curse the manna that God has sent. No, you may not have what your neighbor has, but God has kept you, He's provided -- yes, you have to scrape through, but that's all right. Even if you have to scrape, you're making it. And when God has granted you the ability to make it, and you curse what He's given you, He sent poisonous snakes. And it's interesting, they said, "The only way that they could save themselves." He said, look, if you -- He made Moses make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. And He said, if you look at the bronze snake, you'll be healed and you won't die. Sometimes, people, you've got to look at some of the stuff you've got.

And the people knew why the snakes had come. Sometimes you've got to be able to look at some stuff. And you've got to be able to come face to face with your demons. You've got to be able to come face to face with some of the stuff you know you need to change. The worst thing in the world that can ever happen to

keep us in a world of sin is for us to say, well it isn't that bad, it's all right here, everybody else is doing it. And that will tell you fast enough, because the road to hell is wide. Everybody -- I don't want to be telling you but everybody's going to hell, I'm on the way going myself. I don't want to be part of that.

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I want no part of what everyone else has. And He made him put it up on a pole and look upon the snake, because they had to look upon it, and he had to -- and he says they had to look on the snake. You won't die, you'll be healed. God is trying to take us through some things, and take us to some higher elevations. And help us to understand, people. There's nothing that we're going through that's not common.

Everyone faces problems. Everyone has struggles. Everyone has difficulty. Everyone goes through some heavy weight. Everyone goes through some times the Lord when they say, please just take this stuff off of me. Everyone goes through it sooner or later. We all go through it, but it's all common unto men. But God will not put more on you than you can handle. And no matter what you've got, no matter how heavy you think it is, God says you can handle it, because I will not give you more than you can handle. You turn to God and don't depend upon a man. You'll make it through to that Promised Land. And if you don't grumble, you'll see the blessing of the manna of which God has given you.

I thank you for joining us today. If you know a friend who needs to listen to this message, you can go to the online word, simply click Send to Friend, and send the message number 5221. That's message 5221. We thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word.

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