

News Story Summary

In the summer of 2015, a homeless man defied stereotypes when he walked into a police station and returned thousands of dollars, which he had found. When the story was reported, people were touched by the kindness and honesty he exhibited and a “Go Fund Me” page was established to reward the man. The initial goal was to raise \$2,400, but soon donations were more than double that amount. A member of the Canadian Mounted Police set out to track down the man to tell him of the donations. Once the man was found and told of the reward money, the anonymous homeless man surprised the officer by asking about donating the money to an agency that serves 1,200 meals a day, provides hot showers, clothing, counseling, and some housing units to people who are in need. After answering his question, the officer asked the homeless man what he could do for him. He told the officer he simply wanted help finding a job, so the officer and others helped him find a suitable job.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Homeless Man Who Returned Found Money Donates Reward”.)

Focus Attention

Relay the story above. Ask: *If you found several thousand dollars, do you think you would be tempted to keep it for yourself? Why or why not? How might the fact that this man was homeless have made the temptation even greater? What factors do you think contributed to the man’s decision to return the money?*

Explain that today’s session focuses on temptations, which were placed before Jesus in the wilderness. Challenge the group to analyze Jesus’ responses and what these responses mean for our lives.

Challenge

Remind the group of the homeless man who turned in the lost money. Lead them to identify the temptations faced by the man. Direct the group to privately identify a temptation that they face regularly. Guide them to evaluate how they are doing in overcoming that temptation. Lead the group (without sharing their own temptations) to share what they have discovered through today’s study and their own experience that could be helpful for others as they seek to overcome temptation. Pray for the group, asking God for strength in facing temptation.