

THE TEMPTATIONS OF MINISTRY #4: "Power and Glory"

Matt 4:8-11

The final temptation: Power and glory. Temptation to use

I. THE TEMPTATION OF POWER

A. The temptation shifts: Satan no longer says if you be the Son of God...

1. It's clear Jesus intention is to be an obedient Son/servant: So the Devil appeals to his desire to do right

a. **Matthew 4:8** *Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendor.*

2. The temptation has to do firstly with power: **V8** *The kingdoms of this world – and all their splendor*

B. The temptation is to use ministry for our personal purposes

1. **Our ego:** Glory/splendor... to shine/bring praise

a. Making ministry the method you get attention/get people to praise you

2. **Power:** A real temptation is to use your position to have power over people

a. **Matthew 20:25** *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.*

1. I can tell people what to do – I can have people do stuff for me...b/c of who I am!

3. **Money:** Splendor – implied in this is the shone of money/wealth

a. Basing ministry choices on money b. Using position to get \$ from people

c. Basing your decisions with people on money: *They will give/they won't give*

II. THE TEMPTATION OF COMPROMISE

A. The 2nd part of the temptation has to do with compromise

1. Jesus has made clear that He wants to do the Father's will/be an obedient Son/obedient servant

a. So the Devil offers what would come eventually by doing right

1. **Psalm 2:8** *Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

2. He says the way to get those things is by compromising – lowering your standards

a. He's not saying you have to reject God/worship always/publicly – just bow down here/nor

1. And by doing that – you will get those things now...and you'll be able to do so much good

B. 3 parts to the temptation

1. **You can have what God wants faster**

a. *Implied is you can have the kingdoms now – without waiting*

2. **You can have what God wants easier:**

a. Satan is offering to bypass the cross – any cost/sacrifice

3. **It doesn't matter how you get there:** The end justifies the means

a. It doesn't matter if you stand for right – you'll have more people/money

b. It doesn't matter how you get it – you can do good with it

1. *Drug Dealer offering to build us a building: Think of the good it would do!*

III. OVERCOMING THE TEMPTATION

A. The first way you overcome this temptation is by total allegiance to God

1. The issue is not whether you get what you want – or accomplish what you think God wants

a. **Matthew 4:10** *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.' "*

1. Some spin out when they don't get what they thought – can't do what they wanted

2. God must be worshipped and served – regardless!

B. The second way you overcome this temptation is by taking the long view

1. Right now it seems hard/right now it would seem to make sense to compromise

a. But the issue is trusting God: *God's way/God's timing is better than mine!*

b. It will be worth it in the end!

C. The third way you overcome this temptation is by devotion to the word of God

1. The Devil himself was defeated by scripture: In His heart and in His mouth IT IS WRITTEN!!

D. Other people are depending on us to overcome the temptations of ministry

1. When salvation came – it was worth it!!