

Members Notes #23

Luke 4:1-13

Worship me!

The Temptation of Christ Part 2

TONIGHT'S PURPOSE: In this second of a three-part series on the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, we look at the temptation of wanting control over people and situations for the wrong reasons. We also delve into the area of the temptation for our Christian walk to be all about "me" instead of all about Him

The expression, "in a moment of time," v5 could serve as an important clue to what happened on that high mountain. Satan's "moment in time movie" was a spectacular production that would have made Cecil B. DeMill (the producer of the movie, "The Ten Commandments") weep. We may perhaps best relate to it by thinking in terms of that amazing production which was staged in the Los Angeles Coliseum at the concluding ceremonies of the Olympic Games. It was a very dramatic, professionally produced presentation of the kingdoms of the world. The fact that it took place in a brief moment added to its impact. Its brevity also enabled Satan to gloss over all of the gory aspects of the kingdoms of the world which would have made it possible for them to be scrutinized, and thus seen in their true light. These kingdoms were far from glorious and would have to be put down, set aside, destroyed, so that the Kingdom of God could be established on the earth. Like a dishonest used car salesman, Satan made a hasty presentation, hoping that Jesus would not see the ugly flaws in his kingdom. This text reminds us of a principle that was applicable to our Lord and also applies to saints today: **IN GOD'S ORDER, THE CROSS IS THE PATH TO _____**. Satan offered a "crown" without a cross. God's way was to establish His throne, His kingdom by means of the _____ of Calvary. The cross is the means to the crown. The Old Testament saints learned this lesson (cf. Hebrews chapter 11, cf. esp. vv. 24-25, 32-40). And so it is for New Testament saints as well.

SATAN THE CONTROL FREAK!

Sometimes, unlike our Lord and like Satan, we can have such a desire to control that is so strong that we're willing to pay a high price to attain it or keep it. While our Lord was willing to set aside His right to reign, so that He might pay the price for our sins, we are often willing to pay a high price to gain control or to keep control. The issue of control is a very prominent one in the Scriptures. The scribes and Pharisees were jealous of our Lord for they recognized that they were losing control (Matt. 7:29; 27:18). It was due to their fear of losing control that they constantly challenged Jesus as to His authority. The disciples, too, were overly concerned with being in _____. They argued one with the other as to who was the greatest (Mark 9:33-34). They were concerned with which of them would have the most control when Jesus became King (Matt. 20:20-21). They wanted to use God's power to destroy their enemies (Luke 9:51-56). They wanted to prohibit others from doing wonders in the name of Jesus (Mark 9:38). Jesus had to teach them that the greatest in the kingdom were to be _____ of all, just as He was doing (Mark 10:42-45).

Throughout the New Testament we can see how the desire to exercise control can be used of Satan to promote sin. The Corinthians seemed to have a fixation on being in control, or of being in that group which had control, or of having a leader who was in control. Husbands are tempted to abuse their role as leaders by lording it over their wives, all in the name of biblical leadership (cf. Ephesians chapter 5). Elders can be tempted to lord it over the flock (1 Peter chapter 5). Individuals can seek to maintain control by standing up for their rights. Also women can usurp their husband's authority in the home.

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- Q1. Where do you stack up in the area of control, have you ever been accused of being a control freak or always being a “micro manager”? How hard is it for you to “let go and let God” in situations that are better left to Him to handle.**

How can we apply the “Cross Principle” to the area of control?

WORSHIP ME!

In the following paragraph, Worship = Loving, praying, serving and following Him not just but includes the singing during the church service.

Christians won't readily fall for the trap of falling down and _____ the devil so the enemy of our souls employs the subtler snare of self-worship. Satan represented worship as a means to an end (“Worship me and all this will be yours”). Our Lord saw worship as the end, the chief goal of man. Worship is our highest calling, our greatest privilege. Unfortunately, we can wrongly view worship as a means. Our motive for worship can be so that we will feel good, so that we will receive a blessing and our motive for praying may be not so much to praise God, but to petition Him for what we want (James 4:3 “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your _____” [NLJV]). We can read the Bible, not to adore Him, but to find promises that we might claim. Let us beware of “worshipping” God as a means rather than as our highest _____.

- Q2a. Isn't it okay to seek the Lord for help and blessings? If it is okay, what's the problem with good feelings and asking for things?**

ANSWER: No problem, as long as we don't treat God as the great _____ Christmas in the sky. We are born into the Kingdom of God to build His Kingdom and not ours. Our motive should be to _____ (make Him look good) and not be overly concerned with our own wants and desires.

- Q2b. How can we apply the Cross Principle in the area of Worship? What's the balance of being God-focused instead of me-focused? - How do we really make it “all about Jesus” instead of all about me when the Bible says I'm to love and take care of myself?** Eph 5:29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church (NLT). Matt 22:39...Love others as well as you love yourself' (MSG).

Clues: How do you Spell God, dog or God? What is tokenism?

WORKS TIME

Remember to pull out your *Book of Life*. Ask “what's new with your Oikos?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Remember to make your announcements)

- Don't forget to signup for Church Camp 2011 “A Fresh Encounter” at the Welcome Desk this Sunday.
- Next Spiritual Parenting Seminar will be six hours spread over 2 Saturdays, 27 August and 3 September from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Spiritual Parenting is foundational to the life of ACF. We're believing that 100% of the congregation will be *Book of Life* carrying Spiritual Parents.