

“You are on the verge of wrecking your life.”

– Russell Moore, Tempted and Tried: Temptation and the Triumph of Christ



Lessons from the Mountain – You Can Have It All

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.
(Matthew 4:8-11)

A Peek Around the Corner

- ❖ What Jesus sees is what is rightfully His, what He rightfully desires and what has been promised Him by the Father and what in His humanity He now sees for the first time
- ❖ What stands before Jesus and getting there is the mission of God, namely the cross

A Promise of Present Possession

- ❖ The tempter interposes himself in the place of the Father – “I’ll give to you now what the Father has offered you later.”
- ❖ The tempter offers a way around time and suffering
- ❖ The tempter offers to provide immediate gratification; get the inheritance now
- ❖ The tempter appeals to pride – the kingdoms and their glory will be YOURS

A Price to Pay

- ❖ Satan worship
 - To assign value and worth to the Satanic ideology of rebellious self exaltation, thus modeling your life after his (no pentagrams needed; just pride)
 - Satan wanted Jesus to do what he had done – rebel and seize what his heart had desired
- ❖ Satan's control
 - If Jesus had fallen and worshipped Satan, in that moment Satan would have owned Jesus and the kingdoms of the world and their glory
 - Satan promises autonomy but delivers slavery – ask Adam and Eve

Jesus' Response

- ❖ Jesus rejects Satanic ideology
- ❖ Jesus values His Father

Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:13 where God is promising the people a glorious land in which to live if they will worship and serve Him. We must note that when they took matters into their own hands, the promise was delayed.

So...

- ❖ What kingdom with its glory and glitz has captured your attention? What stirs your prideful imagination at the thought it could be yours?
- ❖ What is the devil wanting you to do to get it now? You don't have to drink blood to worship the devil; you just have to be prideful, self-exalting and self-directing.
- ❖ Will you exchange the promise of God for present gratification?

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)