

The Gospel of Matthew #22

TEMPTATION #3: DISPLACING GOD FOR GOOD REASONS

Matthew 4:8-11

Jesus represented you in His temptations; His success is credited to you!

I. Nature of the temptation

Satan now gets to the heart of the matter: Your mission is to restore the world and remove its curse. I will release my hold if only You will acknowledge my legitimacy of power. (But note he draws attention to their splendor, not need.)

A shortcut to accomplish Jesus' mission without suffering!

- #1: unspiritual to Presbyterians
- #2: super-spiritual..... to Charismatics
- #3: displace God for a good cause to well intentioned
Classic example of a good end justifying a compromise of principle

2 elements:

- Crown without a cross (cf 26:39)
- Displace God and rob Him ever so slightly of His Glory for a "very good reason"

II. Nature of Jesus' answer

- He knows the promise is a _____
- Only temptation that provokes His _____ !
- Answers with Deut 6:13: do not forget God and rob Him of His Glory
 - Jesus *fully embraces* God's _____ for His
_____ . That shapes His whole ministry

It is established here at the outset.

III. How are we similarly tempted?

- Lies, such as “you really would be happier running your own life rather than all that self-denial, purity, sacrifice stuff”
- Man-centered God: God exists to meet my needs
The crown without the cross
- Man-centered ministry: a church that puts the Great Commission ahead of the Great Commandment
- Lack of horror at God being displaced so I forget Who is at the Center of my life (**Deut 6:4-15**) – so compromise is not unthinkable