

The Temptations of the World

Matthew 4:8-11 – “Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ‘I will give it all to you,’ he said, ‘if you will kneel down and worship me.’ ‘Get out of here, Satan,’ Jesus told him. ‘For the Scriptures say, “You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.”’ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.”

The world has many temptations. Even Jesus was tempted. When the devil took Jesus to the highest place and offered Him the kingdoms of the world, he wasn't attacking His divinity; he was feeding into Jesus's humanity. As God, the whole earth already belonged to Him. The devil was tempting Jesus with the things of the world, appealing to Jesus' humanity, and Jesus told him to go away.

Sometimes the devil can try to trick us into accepting the things of the world by making us think we're doing it for God. But there is a split between the things of the Spirit and the things of the world.

It's like the old Native American proverb: There are two wolves inside of you, fighting each other. Which one will win? The one you feed. Likewise, there are two spirits fighting inside you for control over your soul. The one that will win is the one you feed—the one you spend the most time listening to, meditating on, and following.

Sometimes we believe the end justifies the means. We believe our methods are okay because we're doing it for the right reasons. But the Bible tells us otherwise. This is why it is so important that we interpret the world through the eyes of the Word, not the world. The world tries to convince us that there are a lot of loopholes we can jump through and shortcuts we can take.

1 John 2:15-17 – “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

This is a real-life warning. The end does not justify the means in the sight of God. If you keep cutting corners, eventually you will have nothing stable to stand on, and everything will fall apart.

It is better for us to operate based on the Word lens than based on the world lens. There are blessings to be found in the truth.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 – “But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”

Nobody is going to go to hell for being rich; however, the catch is that you cannot put your money before God. If you start chasing after money, it will lead you off God’s path.

The *love* of money is the root of evil. But when you have money, you can use it to do good, blessing the people around you.

Psalms 125:3-4 – “The wicked will not rule the land of the godly, for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong. O Lord, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are in tune with you.”

Sometimes the things of the world can be disguised as blessings from God. We need to be alert and remain patient, so we are not deceived.

Resist the world's temptation. Don't throw seeds of weeds into your garden. Root them out, throw them out, and keep seeking after the Lord.