

## THE TEMPTATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

*"Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil." Matthew 4:1*

### THE PAIN AND PLEASURE TEST

*"For forty days Jesus ate nothing and became very hungry. Then the Devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, change these stones into loaves of bread.' But Jesus said, 'The Scriptures say, "People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God."'"*  
Matthew 4:2-4

When I'm empty, hurting, or confused, will I trust God to meet my needs or rush to satisfy them myself?

*"My people have done two evil things: They've forsaken me - the fountain of living water, and they've dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can't hold water at all!" Jeremiah 2:13*

*"Let him who walks in the dark and has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on God. But you who live in your own light and warm yourselves from your own fires and not from God's will live among sorrows." Isaiah 50:10-11*

### ANTIDOTE

*"Don't worry... Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." Matthew 6:31-33*

*"Then the Devil went away, and angels came and cared for Jesus." Matthew 4:11*

### THE POPULARITY AND PRAISE TEST

*"Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said, 'If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the Scripture says, "God will give orders to his angels and they'll hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt.'" Jesus said, 'The Scriptures also say, "Do not test the Lord your God."'"*  
Matthew 4:5-7

Will I use my abilities to serve God and others or to gain prominence and approval for myself?

*"Just when Rehoboam was at the height of his popularity and power, he abandoned the Lord, and the people followed him in this sin". 2 Chronicles 12:1*

*"Praise is the test of character." Proverbs 27:21*

### ANTIDOTES

*"... Let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity..." Galatians 5:25-26*

*"If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time He will lift you up." 1 Peter 5:6*

### **THE PROSPERITY AND POSSESSIONS TEST**

*"Then the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendor, and said, 'If you'll bow down and worship me, I'll give you all these things.' Jesus said, 'Go away from me, Satan! It is written 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"" Matthew 4:8-11*

Do I value wealth on earth more than eternal reward in heaven?

*"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Matthew 16:26*

*"Use your money to do good...give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given you. By doing this you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven--it is the only safe investment for eternity! And you will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well". 1 Timothy 6:18-19*

*"When the Devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came." Luke 4:13*

Every time you pass a test, you're given more power

*"Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him... He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of Isaiah. He found the place where it is written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me -- to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to recover the sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, and announce the time has come when the Lord will save his people.'" Luke 4:14-19*