

THE TEMPTATIONS OF MINISTRY #2: "Pinnacle Dangers"

Matt 4:5-6

Before Jesus began to minister – He was tempted. Looking at the temptations of ministry. Today: Pinnacle Dangers.

I. CHALLENGING OUR VALIDITY

A. Our scrip revolves around the will of God

1. Who we are – and what we are called to do for God

a. Present usefulness b. Ultimate purpose

B. But there are 2 truths we have to face about the will of God

1. **The will of God involves time:** It takes time to be prepared for God's will

a. Jesus has not ministered publicly – and 30 years have gone by

b. **Psalm 105:19** Until the time that his word came; the word of the LORD tried him.

2. **The will of God involves a process:** We have to be prepared for usefulness

a. **Isaiah 49:2** He made my tongue like a sharp sword... He made me like a sharp arrow.

1. Works on our character/motivations/people skills/lack of wisdom

C. The devil assaults the time and the process of the will of God

1. **V6** If you are the Son of God... Introducing doubt into His current situation and approach

a. **Are you valid if you don't have attention?**

1. Personally: If you don't have the spotlight 2. Church: Where's all the people?

3. Discipleship: What if you do something right and the Pastor doesn't know about it?

b. **Are successful if you have to wait?** Jesus had waited 30 years – allowing God's will to unfold

1. But we equate waiting with being a loser: Wait for ministry/wait for a wife/wait for \$

a. There's something wrong with you – or wrong with God

II. TAKING A LEAP

A. The Devil takes him to the pinnacle of the temple Southeast corner of the Temple building overlooking the Kidron valley

1. A 70 ft. drop to Temple courtyard or a 450 ft drop to the valley floor

a. The Devil's answer is jump off: **V9** throw yourself down... you won't get hurt – you'll float!

B. This is a common strategy the Devil uses against us: A shortcut mentality; alternatives that are faster / easier

1. **1 Cor 3:12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with... wood, hay, straw... b. Rehoboam made shields of brass

2. **He wants us to bypass the character issue**

a. Trying to be seen/to impress – instead of working on your heart character to be who you should be

3. **He wants us to bypass the time factor**

a. Tempted to lift ourselves up by trying to kick other people down: Slander – envy

b. Tempted to aim at prosperity first – instead of prioritizing God and letting God bless us

1. Gehazi: Get the money now! 2. **2 Kings 5:26** is it time to receive money...

c. Tempted to move ahead of what God is doing: Moses murders an Egyptian to become a deliverer!

1. Offers from other churches

d. Pastoring/building a church: Tempted to proselyte/religious people

1. Looking for gimmicks that will build quickly: Instead of outreach/converts

III. SURVIVING THE PINNACLE

A. The key to survival in life is trust in God: God can be trusted!

1. God is wiser than we are: God has the ultimate perspective of wisdom: he already knows the future

a. He knows what's going to happen – why something is a bad idea – why something is a good idea

2. God's plans are better than ours: Even if they're harder - or not what we want

a. Jesus could be temporarily popular – or gain eternal salvation for the whole world/all time

B. Jesus was looking ahead and accepting some things

1. **The cross principle:** Doing right is difficult and sometimes expensive

a. **Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

1. I accept what is difficult now for my future and greater good

2. **The time principle:** The good things of God will not come immediately: A process over time

C. Relationship with God is the key to all of life: **V7** it is written...

1. Jesus spent time with God: gave the strength to do right - it enabled Him to see things clearly

2. Out of this flows the grace of God

a. **A grace is activated:** **V14** He returned in the power of the Spirit...

b. **You become truly effective:** Fame spread/woman healed; Impact & deliverance