

**THE TEMPTATIONS OF MINISTRY #2: "Pinnacle Dangers"**

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

**I. CHALLENGING OUR VALIDITY**

## A. Our script 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?*

2. **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. I 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*