

June 12th 2009 Temptations of Jesus 3:What Price Your Soul?

It's the 3rd and final.....and it's the most powerful one yet.

For 40 days....Jesus had been led by the Spirit===**Led** into the barren wilderness
Led into the place of testing....**Of** suffering →physically...mentally...spiritually

A leading intended to achieve.....God's purposes for His Son

But now....note.....it's the devil who does the leading
And the direction he takes Jesus.....extremely diff

The hardship of....left behind===before Him stretches all the kingdoms....

- **All the people He can touch for good**
- **All the lives for Him to change**
- **All the injustices He can correct**
- **All the wars He can end**
- **All the peace He can bring**

The devil will give it to Him.....or that's what he says he will do!!!

Then he will leave Jesus to it.....Give Him free reign to do what He likes

For Jesus...this carpenter.....All the authority.....all the glory....all the splendor

And all Jesus has to do →Is to fall down and worship him
He doesn't ask that He serve him.....Or do it publicly

You've come to save the world Jesus.....Well it doesn't have to be hard
Just worship me.....and this world is yours.....**INSTANTLY**

I find it really interesting that in v5 we read
The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an *instant* all the kingdoms of the world.

Here it is Jesus.....the Instant answer to your mission---the painless answer
The way of Instant Happiness.....Instant Fulfillment

It's the classic temptation.....You can have everything.....have it now
Just sell your soul.....**Just worship him** who offers so much yet.....

Jesus was no doubt....thinking back to this temptation.....when He said in Mtt 16:26
What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

And yet today people seem prepared....to put the welfare of their souls second.....

I sat and asked myself.....why it is...that so many in Aust...have little or no time....4 God
No time to seek out Jesus.....No time for worship....
No time or desire to live in a way...puts Him first

And the answer I came to

Is because they feel....it would detract....from **what they** want to do
What they want to gain.....or achieve...out of this life

(As I have read the emails from Africa.....I've realized again)

When Jesus rebuked this temptation.....He quoted again from Deut 6
the context of which is a sermon of Moses to....before they cross

The verses directly before the one Jesus quotes....say this:

When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Moses was warning them....against becoming
so immersed in the things of this world.....**So caught** up in instant gratification
That they end up bowing to the gods that promise so much.....and give so little
It's this very same temptation

So when the devil tries it against Jesus...He responds with the verse in Deut 6 that follows

Fear the LORD your God, serve Him only

(Most of us aware..The Godfather films: In the book...story of an undertaker who secretly seeks help from the head of the family, Don Corleone. First the undertaker must pledge allegiance to him. When he does, he gets the help he asks for.

Then he does not hear from Don Corleone for a year. One day Don Corleone's son is killed by a rival crime syndicate. In the middle of the night, the undertaker is called. Don Corleone asks the undertaker to handle the burial. He is petrified with fear. Suddenly it will be known to everybody – his neighbors, his customers, the police, the rival crime syndicate – that the undertaker serves Don Corleone, the mobster. But he has no choice. Failing to honor the request at that point would cost him his life.)

So many today....are happy to pursue the things they want in life...and to leave God..
Like the undertaker they think....that the worst will never happen

But the Scriptures clearly state.....that on that day....God will say
you refused to own me as Lord.....and now its too late

To choose Jesus as your Lord is such an easy thing to do....and I would be remiss

But we who love.....can't afford to be smug
For the worship we offer....must be real....sincere....sacrificial....and **our only** worship

We must avoid falling into the trap...Israelites fell into....For we read in 2 Kings 17:41...

***Even while these people were worshipping the LORD,
they were serving their idols. To this day their children
and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.***

So how can we be sure.....that we are truly worshipping God alone ??

FIRST BY ASKING

whether our involvement in the things of the Lord....(whether its)...**is suffering**
because of an involvement with the things of this life

SECOND

By questioning the choices...we are making in life→

Do they ultimately support....prosper....God's will** for our lives
Or are they really more about....advancing our own will.....our own comfort?**

**Early last week...my brother Geoff sent me the text...of a most inspiring interview
...with Rick Warren**

Rick said:

People ask me, What is the purpose of life?

And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body-- but not the end of me.

I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity..

I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life..

No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on.

And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for.

**You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems:
If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain.' But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.**

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do.

That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

**Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.
Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.
Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.
Painful moments, TRUST GOD.
Every moment, THANK GOD..**

