

## How Do You Stop The Devil? (Part 5)

Temptation is not really temptation unless it is...tempting...that is, *desirable*. For example, if you tried to use Brussel sprouts to entice someone to break the law, it probably will not work unless they really crave *Brussel sprouts*. If there is no desire, there is no real temptation.

In addition, temptation might not be tempting if there is no possibility of actually satisfying one's desire. For example, if you tempted someone with a million dollars to do something evil, but they knew that you could not possibly produce a million dollars...no temptation. The potential for fulfillment, even if an illusion, must be *perceived* as possible or real.

With these thoughts in mind consider the third temptation of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 4:

**<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."**

Don't think that Jesus just shrugged this off with no interest or that the enticing offer was a dud. The devil was making a very desirable offer that he could apparently fulfill to some degree. He asked Jesus to do something that was unmistakably wrong, but the enticement was to rule the world. What if Jesus had given in?

Sometimes the devil attacks Christians in the same way. He offers something that is very desirable, but the cost is far greater than its value.

Did you know that Jesus IS ruler of the world?

The Apostle Peter wrote about Jesus after He had been raised from the dead and had ascended into heaven saying that He is:

**"...at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities**

**and powers had been subjected to Him."  
—1 Peter 3:22**

That sounds like Jesus received from God the very thing that the devil had offered.

Not only that, not long before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his apostles:

**"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." —Matthew 28:18**

That sounds like Jesus had received something even better than what the devil offered; not just rule on earth, but rule in heaven as well.

When tempted by the devil, Jesus realized that the *amazing* offer was inferior to the inheritance He would receive from God.

Modern America is an easy prey for the devil's deceptions of instant gratification. So many people wish to indulge in every aspect of life: food, leisure, sex, entertainment, travel, hobbies, and the list goes on. The devil offers immediate fulfillment. However, his fulfillment never fully fills. Only in the moment is there any sense of gratification. Then, the sensation wears off and desire returns, often increasing.

The devil offers shortcuts to promises. However, the devil's 'promises' are:

- ◆ Always inferior to God's promises;
- ◆ Always at an extremely high price; and
- ◆ Always opposed to the will of God.

So, what IF...for the rest of your life, your immediate *desires* are not satisfied...yet you inherit *eternal life*???

How do you stop the devil? There is a battle for your mind! ***Engage your mind!***

*Reject his offer; the price tag is too high.  
Then, wait on God for true fulfillment.*