

Jesus in the Wilderness
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Question from the past week

What does Satan believe?

1. Satan is a created and fallen being. Demons were once a part of the holy angelic order, but were persuaded by Lucifer and fell with him (Isa 14).

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2. The Bible tells us that sin was found in Satan
(Eze 28:13-15)

3. He knows about the power of God (Matt 4,
Luke 4) as his requests of Jesus indicate

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4. According to James, demons believe (by proxy Satan also), but they have no faith (James 2:19-20)

5. This is the fundamental difference--you can have knowledge about God, but if you don't have faith, you don't have eternal life

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6. Faith is more than an intellectual assent to facts about God

7. He believes that he should be God (Isa 14:13-14)

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Temptations of Christ Part Two

3. The Temptation of Seeking Premature Glory (vv.8-11)

- a. Jesus is taken again by the Devil, this time to a high mountain, and shows him all the kingdoms of the world

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i. While the previous two temptations were urges to get Jesus to act out of character and to pervert his calling as the Son of God, this temptation is aimed at getting him to abandon his entire mission

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ii. This is how the Enemy (sin and deception) works--he begins with what often seems harmless or minor compromises, but all the while his goal is for you to reach defection or ineffectiveness

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(1) You can't undo being a child of God, but you can live in such a way that you make little to no impact on behalf of the kingdom

(2) Jesus could never not be the Son of God, but to give in to Satan's request would result in a failed mission to redeem humanity

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iii. When the verse tells us that the Devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, two things are to be noted

- (1) He has the power to do so
- (2) He is keenly aware of and involved in the activity of those kingdoms

(3) Why: because worldly kingdoms represent activity where God is not welcomed

b. The Request: Worship Me and not God (v.9)

i. To literally bend the knee before Satan thereby paying homage to his power and rule

ii. The temptation was to forego the suffering connected to ministry and the cross and receive glory prematurely

iii. Addiction to hurry is the bane of our current moment

(1) We are irritable because we are always in a hurry (it's a form of anxiety)

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(2) We are hypersensitive to everything someone says--we take everything personally and are constantly arguing

(3) It deflates our ability to love, because we can't love on the run

(4) It essentially eliminates our pursuit of holiness, because we can't be holy in a hurry

(5) And if you constantly find yourself passing out at the close of the day, you might be giving in to Satan's offer of premature glory!

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c. The request seems out of place unless we understand this:

i. Satan has been given authority over the world's kingdoms temporarily

(1) John 12:31

(2) Eph 6:11-12

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ii. He knows that there is difficulty that lies ahead, and offers an escape

iii. He doesn't deem himself worthy of worship, but has to try and barter something in exchange for worship--if you worship me, I will give you...

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iv. This is exactly what God desires for us to learn--God will do things to gain our gaze, but these are not to be exchanged as trinkets for worship, but rather things that one who is worthy of worship does

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v. This is also why, if you are only good with God when he's blessing your socks off, you have a very volatile relationship with him--because he's not doing that every day

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vi. Instead, he wants us to see that His worthiness has and is firmly established, and the things that he does are because he is inherently worthy!

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d. The Nature of counterfeit worship comes in two forms

i. Direct Worship- this means to literally do what Satan wants; to bow the knee; to live in direct and blatant opposition of God

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ii. Indirect Worship- this is when we are not really interested in doing what the Enemy wants, but the Enemy, or the people that represent him, have something we want, or we think we need-- so we make a deal and tell ourselves it's only temporary

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(1) We fall prey to this temptation when we seek to tap into sources other than God to get what we want

(2) We make these lopsided deals with people who don't love God in the name of expediency or desperation and become indebted to them

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e. What we see in this temptation is Satan's ultimate goal--to get God's people to turn their backs on Him in exchange for quick fixes, temporary comfort, and counterfeit kingdoms

f. Jesus is offered quick (no-hardship) earthly glory in lieu of future, cross-bearing eternal glory

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g. Scholars suggest that Matt 28:18 (All power...) is the direct and positive counterpart to what Satan was attempting to have Jesus squander

i. Here is the question: Which power source do you want driving your life and walk?