



**Text:** Matthew 4:5-7

**Big Idea:** Acting religious is like joining a marathon racecourse at the final mile in order to make a big splash running across the finish line. It's only about appearances, not acting in faith in Christ.

- There are three ingredients in religious temptation
  - A holy environment
  - The misuse of Scripture
  - Manipulating God
- The answer to religious temptation: We must rightly handle God's Word and surrender.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever been tempted to make a show of your faith? What was the reasoning? Looking back would you do anything differently?
2. Oswald Chambers said, "An unguarded strength is a double weakness." What are your strengths? How do you guard them?
3. Read Psalm 91. With proper context, especially noting verses 9-10, how do you describe the meaning of verses 11-12?
4. How do people put God to the test today?
5. Think of a time when you were tempted to act but submitted to God and humbled yourself before Him instead. How did you feel? How did God respond?

If Jesus didn't grab the spectacular in His ministry, we should not either. Like Jesus, we resist that temptation when we submit to God, hear His Word and then obey.