

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Surrender U Series, Lesson 46

Lesson Title: Jesus is Tempted: Worship Me

Take Home Point: Give up worshipping false gods—GET GOD'S PRESENCE

Warm-Up:

I have a very nice photograph of my wife that I carry around with me. I like to set it out when I'm not with her, such as when I am on business travel and staying in a hotel room. It's a reminder of our loving relationship. Now imagine me carrying that photo around the house with me, even while she is there. I don't speak or listen to her; I don't relate to her in any way. I only look at her photo. I talk to the photograph and give it gifts. I tell people how grateful I am for photography, what an amazing coincidence that photography came into being, and how much the photo means to me because it is mine. I study the history of photography; I collect all kinds of photos, storing them away for my security. Knowing they are there gives me strength. What happened? I replaced a genuine relationship with a lifeless shadow, an image of the real thing.

Read: Matthew 4:1-10; Romans 1:21-25; 8:1-4, 9-10

Observation (What happened?):

What did Satan offer Jesus in return for his worship?

What did Jesus use in response?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Satan tempt Jesus with the kingdoms of the world? Why would that be tempting to Jesus?

Do you think the kingdoms of the world were Satan's to give away?

Insight:

What was the temptation here for Jesus? Were the kingdoms of the world really Satan's to give away? The temptation was for Jesus to receive what he otherwise would have to suffer greatly to receive. His Father in heaven had promised the world to his Son; Psalm 2:8 is a prophetic passage of God speaking to his Son: "I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." Jesus knew he would eventually receive all that Satan was offering. He also knew that his Father's will was for him to be betrayed, suffer, and die a criminal's death. All that had to occur before he received the world's kingdoms. All Satan was doing was offering a way out, a way to circumvent the pain. But Jesus knew it also meant circumventing God's will, which he would not do. I'm so glad he didn't, for in the balance hung my salvation from death and hell. By the way, the kingdoms really were Satan's to give. In John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11, Jesus calls Satan the "prince of this world," until all is taken away from him in final judgment.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What gets in your way of living for God? Is that an idol? Why not?

Memorize Romans 8:1 to use when Satan tempts you to turn from your Savior.