

# CHURCH WITH A MISSION DISCIPLESHIP CLASS



## PART 2

### Spiritual Warfare and the Idols we Worship



What Happened?...Why are we in This Conflict with Satan in the First Place?

### THE 3 DEEP ROOTED IDOL TRAPS

**IDOL #1- COMFORT**

**IDOL#2- SIGNIFICANCE**

**IDOL #3- CONTROL**

**THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES SHOW THE ORIGIN OR THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM**

- Matthew 4:1-10 (NIV)
- 1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
- 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
- 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." **IDOL #1- COMFORT**
- 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

4:3-4. The first test pertained to the matter of sonship. Satan assumed that if He were the Son, perhaps He could be persuaded to act independently of the Father. Satan's test was subtle for since He is the Son of God, He has the power to turn the stones all around Him into bread. But that was not the will of His Father for Him. The Father's will was for Him to be hungry in the desert with no food. To submit to Satan's suggestion and satisfy His hunger would have been contrary to God's will. Jesus therefore quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, which affirms that man does not live on bread alone, but by God's Word. It is better to obey God's Word than to satisfy human desires. The fact that Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy showed that He recognized the inerrant authority of that book, one often criticized by scholars. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

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### Scripture Read

#### **Exodus 13:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

### Additional Scriptures

READ Dt 32:10 Teaches that God will allow us to go thru deserts. ALSO READ: Exodus 3:18, 13:18, Dt 29:5, Luke 3:2, Rev 12:6

4:5-7. The second test by Satan appealed to personal display or popularity. Satan took Him to... the highest point of the temple. Satan was saying, in essence, "Why don't You do what the people are expecting and make some marvelous display? After all, the Scripture says His angels will protect You and You won't even hurt a foot as You come down." Satan may have thought if Jesus could quote Scripture to him, he could quote it too. However, he purposely did not quote Psalm 91:11-12 accurately. He left out an important phrase, "in all Your ways." The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

- 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **IDOL#2- SIGNIFICANCE**
- 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

### Scripture Read

#### **Nehemiah 9:29 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> "You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen.

### Additional Scriptures

READ Jer 49:16 Teaches that God will bring down those who focus on self exaltation, ALSO READ Luke 11:43

## PART 2

- 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.
- 9 "All this I will give you," he said, **IDOL #3- CONTROL** "if you will bow down and worship me."
- 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

4:8-11. Satan's final test related to God's plan for Jesus. It was and is God's design that Jesus Christ rule the world. Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world with all their splendor. These kingdoms presently are Satan's, as he is "the god of this Age" (2 Cor. 4:4) and "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; cf. Eph. 2:2). He had the power to give all these kingdoms to Jesus at that time—if only Jesus would bow down and worship him. Satan was saying, "I can accomplish the will of God for You and You can have the kingdoms of this world right now." This of course would have meant Jesus would never have gone to the cross. He supposedly could have been the King of kings without the cross. However, this would have thwarted God's plan for salvation and would have meant Jesus was worshiping an inferior. His response, once again from Deuteronomy (6:13 and 10:20), was that God alone should be worshiped and served. Jesus resisted this temptation also.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary

### Scripture Read

**POWER** The ability to act or produce an effect; the possession of authority over others. These two aspects of power are often related in Scripture. Because God has revealed His power in the act of creation, He has authority to assign dominion to whomever He wills (Jer. 10:12; 27:5). God revealed His power by miraculously delivering Israel from Egyptian slavery (Ex. 4:21; 9:16; 15:6; 32:11) and in the conquest of Canaan (Ps. 111:6). God's acts are foundational for His claim on Israel. God's power includes not only the power to judge but also the power to forgive sin (Num. 14:15-19; Jer. 32:17-18). 2 Kings 3:15 links the onrush of the power of God with prophecy. Here power approximates God's Spirit (compare Mic. 3:8; Luke 1:35).

Christ's miracles evidenced the power of God at work in His ministry (Matt. 14:2; Mark 5:30; 9:1; Luke 4:36; 5:17). Luke highlighted the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14; Acts 10:38) and the ongoing ministry of the church (Acts 1:8; 3:12; 4:7,33; 6:8). Paul stressed the paradox that the cross—what is apparently Jesus' greatest moment of weakness—is the event in which God's power to save is realized (1 Cor. 1:17-18; compare Rom. 1:16). This scandal of God's power revealed in Christ's death continues in God's choice to work through the powerless (1 Cor. 1:26-29; 2:3-4; 2 Cor. 12:9). In some texts, powers refer to angelic powers (Rom. 8:38; Eph. 3:10; Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:22).

Holman Bible Dictionary.

- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 (CEV)
  - 3 But don't be fooled! People will rebel against God. Then before the Lord returns, the wicked one who is doomed to be destroyed will appear.
  - 4 He will brag and oppose everything that is holy or sacred. He will even sit in God's temple and claim to be God.
  - 5 Don't you remember that I told you this while I was still with you?
  - 6 You already know what is holding this wicked one back until it is time for him to come.
  - 7 His mysterious power is already at work, but someone is holding him back. And the wicked one won't appear until that someone is out of the way.
  - 8 Then he will appear, but the Lord Jesus will kill him simply by breathing on him. He will be completely destroyed by the Lord's glorious return.
  - 9 When the wicked one appears, Satan will pretend to work all kinds of miracles, wonders, and signs.
  - 10 Lost people will be fooled by his evil deeds. They could be saved, but they will refuse to love the truth and accept it.
  - 11 So God will make sure that they are fooled into believing a lie.
- 12 All of them will be punished, because they would rather do evil than believe the truth.

WHAT LESSONS YOU HAVE LEARNED?

WHAT MOVES DO YOU NEED TO MAKE AS A RESULT OF READING THIS LESSON?

WHAT PRAYERS CAN YOU PRAY?