

August 15, 2010

Sermon Title: "When the Tempter Is After Your Greatness"

Setting the context: Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Main Text: Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus tempted by tempter

Matthew 4:1-1 (New International)

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[a]"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 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.'^[b]"

⁷Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[c]"

⁸Again, 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, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'^[d]"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Sermon Title: "When the Tempter Is After Your Greatness" – He wants your worship

Definition of Greatness

From wordnetweb. Princeton.edu/webwn

The state, condition, or quality of being great; as, greatness of size, greatness of mind, power, etc.

From Wikipedia

Greatness is a concept of a state of superiority affecting a person, object or place. The concept carries the implication that the particular person or object, when compared to others of a similar type, has clear and perceivable advantage. As a descriptive term it is most often applied to a person or their work, and may be qualified or unqualified. An example of an expression of the concept in a qualified sense would be "*[Winston Churchill](#) was one of the greatest wartime leaders*". In the unqualified sense it might be stated "*Winston Churchill achieved greatness within his own lifetime*", thus implying that "greatness" is a definite and identifiable quality. Application of the terms "great" and "greatness" is dependent on the [perspective](#) and subjective judgments of those who apply them. ^[1] Whereas in some cases the perceived "greatness" of a person, place or object might be agreed upon by many, this is not necessarily the case, and the perception of "greatness" may be

Three Points:

Know Whose You Are – Fully engage in an intimate relationship with Him

Know Who You Are – He abides in you, his Spirit abides in us, and as long as we abide in Him, we have access to his power and authority.

Know His purpose for you – God is Great! He is worthy to be praise and you are created to worship God.

Questions for discussion and reflection:

1. Explain inherent greatness in your own words.
2. What does it mean to abide in God?
3. Reflect on and explain your relationship with your heavenly father.
4. Do you think God is pleased with your worship, if not what will you do about it?

Digging Deeper: When you look at your life and your journey traveled thus far are you able to distinguish when you have been on your own journey-"your way" and when you were on the journey God has for you - "God's way"? Separately, explain your journey over the last five years.

Prayer Focus: Dear God.....help me to walk in your way and will for my life. Amen