

Luke 4:5-8 Jesus' Ambition for the Glory of God

Jesus' loyal love for His Father could not be purchased by the devil with all the kingdoms of this world.

1) The devil tried Jesus' loyalty to God with the lure of power and prestige.

- a) A Real Temptation which Appealed to a Legitimate Ambition in the Humanity of Jesus.
 - i) "Took Him up"—allusion to Deut. 34:1-4; the inheritance of the land/earth (Gen. 1:27-28); man's role that of a client king, answering to his Suzerain, God; as the truest Man, Jesus would feel deeply this temptation to immediately possess what is His inheritance by right of birth as the Last Adam
 - ii) "showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time"—a visionary experience. The term for world (*oikoumenē*) may suggest Roman Imperialism, which encompassed many world kingdoms. Knowing the vexation of Israel, as well as other client kingdoms under Roman imperialism (not to mention the devil) would have only increased the desire of a good man to take control of the situation.
- b) The "Truth" in the Lie.
 - i) "For it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will."—The devil's dominion is real, but not ultimate.
 - (1) The devil's dominion is real.
 - (a) Adam's treason (Rev. 13:1-4); "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11); "the god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4); "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2)
 - (b) As Luke sets the stage for the gospel of Jesus Christ he shows that Christ comes to a people that are sitting "in darkness and in the shadow of death." And where is that? It is the *oikoumenē* of Rome: Herod the Great (1:5), Caesar Augustus (2:1), Quirinius, Governor of Syria (2:1), Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate in Judea, Herod the Tetrarch in Galilee, Philip the Tetrarch in Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias the Tetrarch in Abilene (3:1), and even the high priests of Israel, Annas and Caiaphas (3:2). Especially Luke 23:12
 - (2) But the devil's dominion is not ultimate.
 - (a) Daniel 4:31-32 "until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will"; Daniel 4:34-35 "He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth"
 - (b) Satan's government is like an insurgency.
 - ii) "all this authority and their glory"—The key is in the word "this." "If You then will worship me, it will all be Yours."—This is "authority and glory" under the devil.
 - (1) *Satanic authority* is tyranny (Luke 22:24-27).
 - (2) *Satanic glory* is vanity.
 - (3) It doesn't require the cross, but it calls for the acknowledgement of the devil's right to rule, and, consequently, cooperation with the devil, with evil, in the government of the nations.
- c) Like Adam, Eve, and Israel, this is where the devil catches people today. Where does our help come from?

2) Jesus overcame the lure of selfish ambition with a controlling ambition for the glory of God.

- a) Jesus identifies with us rebels, not by joining our insurgency, but by living in the midst of this insurgency with complete loyalty to God, and then surrendering Himself as payment for our treason.
 - i) He identifies with rebels: "It is written"—Again He quotes from Deuteronomy (6:13), showing that He identifies with the people of Israel in the wilderness.
 - ii) He remains loyal to the Father: "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve"—The word 'only' is essential to a Godward life.
 - (1) Deut. 6:12 "Take care lest you forget the LORD." Deut. 6:14-15 "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth."
 - (2) Jesus lived for God's glory. Luke 9:24-25; John 12:27-28
 - (3) Accepted suffering and then glory (Luke 24:25-26); Real Authority and Glory: Psalm 2; Dan. 7:14
 - (4) Because Jesus lived completely for the glory of His Father, He is able to share in the Father's glory (Luke 9:26-27).
- b) In Christ our selfish-ambitions are put in check by Christ's ambition for the glory of God.
 - i) Luke 9:23-26; Philippians 1:21; Philippians 3:7-8; Psalm 27:4
 - ii) Ignatius "Let nothing dazzle you but Christ."