

GREATEST COMBACKS PART 8: OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1 – 11
Pastor Mark Riggins
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MESSAGE NOTES

In every temptation these not-so-obvious truths apply:

- Every time I'm tempted my future, faith, and family are at stake.
- Temptation is always a test of my confidence in God, not just my self-control.

Temptation #1: Meet a legitimate need in an irresponsible way.

Temptation #2: Use God to accomplish my desire.

Temptation #3: Trade what's ultimate for what's immediate.

Three Closing Questions:

- What is the area of my life where I'm most tempted to meet a legitimate need in an irresponsible way?
- Am I using God or following God?
- What is it that I want so badly that I'm tempted to compromise?
- How am I growing my confidence in God?

Temptation I will not let you destroy my future, my faith, and my family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What impacted you from the weekend's message on temptation?
- Why would God lead us into places where we could be tempted?
- What made Jesus particularly vulnerable to the first temptation?
- What role does God's promises/truth play in battling our temptations?
- Based on Jesus' first temptation, have you ever witnessed someone try meet a legitimate need in an irresponsible way?
- Based on the second temptation, Mark described the difference between people who "use God" vs. "follow God." Here are some behavioral distinctions:
 - "Follow" = theme of prayers are primarily surrendering, choose to trust God when suffering, and quick to repent of sin.
 - "Use" = theme of prayers primarily asking God for blessings, always questioning God if suffering, and slow or unwilling to repent of sin.God speaks loudest to a surrendered follower. Have you noticed this in your own life?
- When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane he asked his disciples to pray so they wouldn't fall into temptation. What do you think the relationship of prayer is to our spiritual strength?
- Based on the third temptation, is there something that you currently want so badly that you're tempted to compromise? What are some of the ways you feel Satan tempts you?
- How could you be more self-aware this week, so that Satan doesn't trip you up? Perhaps you could repeat this mantra, "Temptation, I will not let you destroy my future, my faith, and my family."