**Overcoming Part 3**

**The Temptation of Worldly Glory** **(Matthew 4:8-11)**

 Going after worldly glory is akin to bowing down to the devil – we overcome that by remaining loyal to the True God.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters as we complete our sermon series on overcoming by studying the third temptation that Jesus experienced, taken from Matthew chapter four. When we use the word “glory”, we are not referring to the way we’re going to be when we find ourselves in God’s Presence after this life. That is God’s Glory realm. Today, for a few moments, we’re going to study the other glory, the world’s glory, which is shiny, enticing, and draws into itself every spiritually asleep or deceived human being. Let us therefore study this important instance of such temptation, which is relevant to our lives today. Going after worldly glory is akin to bowing down to the devil – we overcome that by remaining loyal to the True God. Let us speak, then, about this specific type of temptation.

 Jesus recognized the danger of receiving worldly glory – we are called to have the same level of alertness. Looking at the passage, we can clearly see that the enemy was tempting our Lord via a process (not just an episodic temptation). In the original Greek, the devil was in the process of taking the Lord and showing Him all the kingdoms their glory. We must also understand that this was a very visible act that Jesus was being tempted to perform. It was something that Jesus physically saw – also, perhaps because of his guardian Joseph’s carpentry business, He was well-acquainted with the lands that he saw from that vantage point and the riches that they contained.

 Just as the enemy had tempted the Lord in His weak moment, using His hunger against Him, as well as tempting the Lord by trying to confuse Him using Jesus’ Scriptural knowledge against Him, He was doing the same now. He was tempting Him right at the moment of the inauguration of Jesus’ ministry. He was tempting Him to see if He could pull the Lord off the path that God had for Him – the salvific works He was destined to do – and to get Him to wrest the kingdoms of the world, which was something outside of the plan of God. The root of the temptation was the same as the other ones. It was to take the Lord out of God’s will for Him, to pull Him out of it and to destroy the relationship between the Father and the Son. All this, Jesus recognized, of course, despite the fact that the presented temptations were genuine. The Lord put aside the glory and honor presented before Him and showed that He was obedient to God the Father.

 The was once a Baptist minister who told about an answer to a question that our nation’s first president’s mother had given about obedience that illustrates the concept well. A prominent French officer had asked her as to how she had been able to raise such a marvelous child (referring to George). She said, “I taught him to obey.”

 Today, one of the greatest temptations we face is the reception of glory from people. It is different when we gather for the glory of God, to rejoice in His deeds. The gathering that occurs for praising each other and giving each other glory has an altogether different nature. The world’s glory is so dangerous that the one who goes after it is equated in Scripture here to bowing down to the devil.

 Today’s attractive glories are numerous, whether they are a fantastic reputation, great wealth, laziness that comes from a comfort-centered lifestyle, decadence, extreme open-mindedness and an unbridled fleshly lifestyle.

 There are times, however when those that have fallen into the temptations that the above represent look differently on the outside. Many of them put on a tie 6 days a week and work 12 hours a day, if not more. There are others that glory in the successes of their businesses. And still, there are those, man or woman, that bow down to their family’s prosperity, ignoring their own spiritual lives, preferring to bask in the glory of this world rather than in the sometimes rough but valuable journey of the Gospel.

 Today, if you see worldly habits in your life that are negatively affecting your worship of God, it is time to tell the devil, get behind me, Satan! Do not let him entice you to come out of God’s will for you. Train yourself in humility, and work on yourself so that you are not distracted by this life’s (temporary) blessings, so that those do not suddenly become over time.

 Going after worldly glory is akin to bowing down to the devil – we overcome that by remaining loyal to the True God. God Bless you all, Amen.