

KING OF THE HILL

Pause, Part 4

September 18th, 2011

If you are driven, progress oriented, a goal setter, always moving forward, to some extent that is the image of God in you

Those who are “wired” this way are susceptible to a specific temptation

The day will come when you have the opportunity to move forward in life, but in order to do so you will have to compromise something you value

The trick - In that moment of temptation you feel you have to set aside your morality, ethics, values, or conscience – but not forever – just for a moment

You think once I get past or through this thing, I’ll get my life back in order with God

In that moment of decision you’ll discover two important things:

1. who you really are
2. whose you really are

The 3 temptations Christ faced:

1. To meet legitimate, physical needs in an improper way
2. To manipulate rather than cooperate with God
3. To pursue the right thing in the wrong way

Matthew 4:8-9

In that temporary moment Satan tempted Christ to submit to his authority in exchange for more authority

Genesis 1:26; John 12:31; Matthew 28:18

“When I was a kid, I use to pray every night for a new bike. Then when I realized the Lord in His wisdom didn’t work that way, I just stole one and asked Him to forgive me.” Comedian

In the moment of temptation we think the issue is what I’m dealing with, but a greater issue is peace

When you take the shortcut and compromise what’s important for the immediate, you lose your confidence in God

The next time a similar temptation comes up you are more than likely to do the same thing because you don’t know if God can be trusted

Temptation is not just a matter of self-control; it’s about your trust in God

Do you have to take matters into your own hands or can you trust God?

You will never accomplish the will of God by abandoning the principles of God

You will never maintain the blessing of God by abandoning the values of God

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

When tempted, reflect on God's Faithfulness in your life in the past. Why abandon Him now?

When tempted we say, "It just feels..." – it's a temptation to sacrifice what's important for what's immediate

Deuteronomy 6:13 & Matthew 4:10

What Christ wanted more than all the kingdoms of earth – unbroken fellowship with the Father – in the end He got both

When you want all the kingdoms of earth and are willing to break fellowship with the Father to get it, you end up with neither

When what seems to be the opportunity of a lifetime appears, and it seems to be the next, logical thing that others agree with & maybe you prayed for, it doesn't mean is the way or time

I wish for you a moment in your life where you would temporarily abandon something very important to you in order to follow Christ

If you compromise and give in to the temptation, you'll never know what God might have done on your behalf if you had trusted Him

Don't trade what is important for what is immediate

When you choose to trust God, you'll discover who you are, whose you are, and who He is – the God who is Faithful

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will take time this week to reflect on God's faithfulness in my life in the past.
- My prayer, "God, I will not trade what's important for what's immediate. I will trust in You."
- I/we plan to participate in Faith in Action on Sun, Oct 16th and bless our community
- I am interested in being baptized next Sunday, Sept 25th at 2 pm. Please contact me.