

#### Matthew 4:8-11

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."



#### Matthew 4:8-11

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.



# The temptation to be powerful



## The Great Schism 1054



### **Crusades** 1095-1270

### Inquisition 1478



### Reformation 1517-1648



"The long painful history of the church is the history of people ever and again tempted to choose power over love, control over the cross, being a leader over being led."

- Henri Nouwen



"It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people..." - Henri Nouwen



# Power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love.



### Jesus' Question: "Do you love me?" John 21:15-17



## Our Question: "Can we sit at your right hand and your left hand in your kingdom? Matthew 20:21

# Concentrate all powers ultimately in one person, i.e. God.



## Transfiguration

## The Great Commision



# Pause and revision.



## Undergird your personal vision with "I must decrease and Jesus must increase." THE THREE TEMPTATIONS

#### John 3:30

He must become greater; I must become less.



## "Why on Earth Did Anyone Become a Christian in the First Three Centuries?"

