

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. ⁹"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."



Matthew 4:8-11

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

¹¹Then 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?"

