The Heart of Our Purpose and Mission

Luke 4:5-8

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And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God and serve Him only.'"

Main Point

The heart of our purpose and mission is to worship and serve the Lord only, but this work is made difficult by the very real temptations of idolatry.

Worship and Serve the Lord What is this work of worship?

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Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

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Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

You shall love and adore the LORD with all that moves you.

True love and adoration leads to practical devotion.

Deuteronomy 10:12

Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. True love and adoration leads to practical devotion.

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What images are evoked by... She adores and is devoted to her children! He adores and is devoted to his Huskers!

Luke 4:7 Satan's proposal *"Therefore if You worship before me"* was a call to adoration and practical devotion not just to a one-time confession.

What is this work of worship?

It is adoration that leads to devotion.

It is allegiance that leads to service.

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God serve Him only."

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God serve Him Only.'" This is allegiance! Allegiance is exclusive loyalty; it is willing subjection to a sovereign. "You shall serve Him **only**" is a call to *exclusive* loyalty, to willing and wholehearted subjection to the LORD! Deuteronomy 10:12 Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

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and to serve the LORD your God with <u>all</u> your heart and with <u>all</u> your soul.

What images are evoked by... Her allegiance is to her career! His allegiance is to his hobbies! Luke 4:7 Satan's proposal "Therefore if You worship before me" was a call to loyalty and subjection not just to a one-off action.

What is this work of worship?

It is adoration that leads to devotion.

It is allegiance that leads to service.

It is affection that leads to satisfaction.

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God serve Him only.'"

To worship the Lord is to love Him with the deepest affections of your heart.

Your affections are what move and motivate you; they are the desires that drive you to seek and pursue satisfaction.

Jeremiah 8:2 They will spread them out to the sun, the moon and to all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served, and which they have gone after and which they have sought, and which they have worshiped.

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What images are evoked by... That man is sure driven! That woman is highly motivated!

Luke 4:7 Satan's proposal *"If You worship before me, it shall all be yours"* was his attempt to stir Jesus' affections and desire with an offer of fulfillment and satisfaction.

What is worship? Worship is the outflow of love. To worship is to serve and obey, to hear and believe, to remember and repent, to fear and esteem, to seek and follow, to swear by and pledge, to delight in and enjoy, to trust in and rest.

Worship and Serve the Lord

What is this work of worship?

Why is true worship so difficult?

Why is this work of worship so hard? Because difficulty and discomfort are ever present realities.

Luke 4:5-7

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Consider the pathway to glory that Jesus was to travel.

Isaiah 53:3-4 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Satan attempted to focus Jesus' attention on the extreme difficulty and intense discomfort of what lie ahead. Consider the pathway to glory that the Lord has set before you!

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Acts 14:22 [Paul and Barnabas were] "strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.""

Why is this work of worship so hard?

Because difficulty and discomfort are present realities.

Because the eye is not satisfied with the seeing.

Luke 4:5-7 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world... and said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory... it shall all be Yours."

Luke 4:5-7 And **he** led Him up and **Showed Him** all the kingdoms of the world... and said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory... it shall all be Yours."

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor is the ear filled with hearing. True worship is made difficult by all the shiny stuff around us!

Worship of God is so difficult because worship of self and stuff is so easy. When we go in pursuit of our dreams, we go in pursuit of the wind -there is no end, there is no satisfaction, there is only distraction, exhaustion, and bitter disappointment.

Why is this work of worship so hard?

Because difficulty and discomfort are present realities. Because the eye is not satisfied with the seeing.

Because idolatry is presented as the easy alternative.

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<u>Therefore</u> if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours. Satan was offering Jesus a cosmic easy button.

You can be sure that Satan will offer you the easy button too!

Persistence in true worship is so difficult because idolatry appears to be so easy. We are called to reject the easy button offers and to worship by walking the way of the cross.

Worship and Serve the Lord

What is this work of worship?

Why is true worship so difficult?

How can you grow in your worship?

How can you grow in your worship? By understanding and owning your temptations.

Consider...

What difficulties and discomforts are you bent on avoiding? What shiny things catch your eye and get you dreaming and chasing? What easy alternatives are you tempted to take?

How can you grow in your worship?

By understanding and owning your temptations.

By faithfully using the means God has given you.

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered him, "It is written..."

Jesus drew from the same Word He has given to you; are you drawing and drinking from it?

Luke 5:16 But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. Jesus went often to His Father, and He has given you free access; are you going often?

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." Jesus is building His invincible community of followers; are you leaning into it?

So, what is the heart and work of our mission?

The heart of our mission is worship, and the work of worship is the rich outflow of life-transforming, soul-stirring, heart-satisfying love for our Lord and Savior.