



### Lent Day 3, February 24, 2012 Get Behind Me!

*Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority, I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be yours." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

As we read through this next part of the encounter between Jesus and Satan, I am struck by the things Satan tempted Jesus with. First of all, Jesus had been fasting and was very hungry, so Satan tempted Him with food. In the above verses, Satan tempted Jesus with the lure of power. Satan knew that Jesus was coming to earth as the Messiah, a spiritual king. Look at

how he tempts Jesus with the power of an earthly king. Perhaps he was hoping to find a chink in Jesus' armor as he tempted him with worldly status and power.

What's funny about this whole thing is that Satan never had that authority to give in the first place, and at any moment Jesus could have taken that authority and assumed whatever kingship he wanted. But he didn't. He chose to stick with God's plan and God's will.

What was it that Satan wanted in return? He wanted Jesus' worship. Satan always tries to usurp what belongs to God. Jesus immediately puts Satan in his proper place by saying "Get behind me, Satan!" He then backs it up with the power of God's word from Deuteronomy 6:13.

**Application:** So what can we learn from today's reading?

1. First of all, Satan will tempt us where we are vulnerable. Count on it. Because of that, you need to know yourself well and what tempts you. Don't leave yourself open to situations that can cause you to fail. If you are tempted by drink, don't hang out at bars. If overeating is a struggle, don't stock up your cupboard with all kinds of snacks. Pray about what your areas of weakness are and come up with a plan to, as best you can, avoid temptation. Include memorizing scripture in the plan and perhaps also have a trusted friend who can be on call if you find yourself stuck in a tempting situation. If you find yourself in a serious temptation, start praying and physically remove yourself from the situation if possible.
2. Beth Moore always says, "Satan can only take the territory we yield to him!" This is a powerfully true statement. The only power Satan can have in our lives is what we give

him by our wrong choices and/or beliefs. That's why it's so important to know the truth and to not listen to lies. In prayer, ask God if you have yielded any territory to the enemy that you need to take back. As my pastor Dave Rodriguez said, "Satan wants to terminate your mission with God and undo the sanction you have from God."

3. Pray for the wisdom to know God's will for your life and the courage to stick to it when the enemy tries to derail you. Look back over the last year of your life. Do you feel you are on track with what God is calling you to do, or do you need to get away by yourself, get quiet, and listen for God's direction? Evaluate how you are doing right now and any changes that you need to make.

**Prayer:** Lord, I pray for the common sense to avoid dangerous situations and please give me a way of escape when I find myself in one (1 Corinthians 10:13). May I defend my territory from Satan's attacks by standing on truth, and help me to know your will and have the courage to choose it. Amen.