

TEMPTATION

Many of us have had moments where we have felt insignificant. Many of us have attempted to gain a sense of significance by reaching for the wrong things. Jesus Himself was tempted by the lie of false significance- seeking significance somewhere other than God the Father. (Next week we will go back to the second temptation of False Belonging)

Many Christian thinkers and theologians agree that there are three core lies the enemy tries to tempt Jesus with in the desert:

1. "You are what you have" (the lie of false security)
2. "You are what you do." (the lie of false significance)
3. "You are what others think of you." (The lie of false belonging)

Read Matthew 3:16-17

In light of the three temptations Jesus would face in the desert, why is it important that He hear these words spoken over Him by the Father? (We asked this question last week, but we feel it is important enough to ask again!)

Read Matthew 4:8-10

Here we see the enemy tempting Jesus, but what is the real temptation here?

Why does the response of Jesus matter?

How is the enemy tempting Jesus with a sense of false significance/accomplishment?

Read 1 John 2:16

How do the three temptations John lists line up with the three temptations of Jesus in the wilderness?

How do these temptations often show up in our lives?

How would our culture look different if people didn't give into these three temptations?

All of us struggle with the lie that "we are what we do/accomplish". In what areas of your life do you find yourself believing this lie?

What would it look like for you to depend on God for this?

Jesus modeled silence as a practice that helps us starve our appetite for false significance- when we turn off the noise of our lives and listen for God's voice instead, we can find our significance in Him and in what He says. He also modeled serving as a way to make Himself lower on purpose.

What would practicing silence or service potentially look like for you?

Pray this prayer: "Father, may I learn to look to you for my power and my significance. Your voice is the only voice that matters. Help me to silence other voices in my life so that I might hear yours more clearly. I want to see where I can serve also. Help me to confess where I have sought false significance, and show me a better way. May your kingdom come, and your will be done in my heart and in my life. Amen."