

Pride and the Idol of Power

Matt 4:8-11

Satan tempts Jesus with the same lie he's been using since the beginning. *Gen 3:4*

Jesus displays how to swiftly defeat that lie. *Eph 6:13-17, James 4:6-7*

God's Word teaches us His design for power in our lives. *2 Cor 12:9, 2 Tim 1:7, Acts 1:8, 2 Cor 10:4*

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Ice Breakers

1. If you could have any superpower for one day, what would it be and what would you do with it?
2. What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you in a situation where you were trying to look impressive or "have it all together"?

Discussion Questions

3. On Sunday we said, Almost no one sees pride in themselves, they just see it in others. Where do you tend to notice pride most easily? Why do you think that is?
4. We discussed three types of people tempted by the idol of power: those who want influence and followers, those who want total personal autonomy ("no one can tell me what to do"), and those who just want to *appear* like they have it all together. Do any of these resonate with you? How do you wrestle with pride and power?
5. Satan offered Jesus kingdoms and splendor, something that wasn't even truly his to give. Can you think of a time you chased something that turned out to be an empty promise? What did that cost you?
6. We traced Satan's lie all the way back to Genesis 3. "You will be like God." Why do you think this same lie has been so effective on humanity for thousands of years?
7. James 4:7 gives a three-step pattern: submit to God → resist the devil → he flees. What does "submitting to God" actually look like in a practical, everyday situation where you're tempted by pride?
8. We talked about the Armor of God from Ephesians 6. The only offensive weapon in the list is the Word of God. How consistently are you actually picking up that weapon? What gets in the way?
9. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that God's power is perfected in weakness. Can you think of a time when your own weakness or failure actually led to something good?
10. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says "take every thought captive to obey Christ." What's one recurring thought pattern in your life that you need to stop letting run and instead submit to God?
11. Christianity is fundamentally different from every other religion because it starts with "I am a sinner" rather than "do better." How does the gospel (that Christ lived the life you couldn't and died the death you deserved) actually change the way you approach your pride day to day?
12. As you close your time together, where is one specific place you need to lay down pride this week and trust God's power instead of your own?