


the  Venues
Go Deep
Not This Way
The Jesus Way
January 24, 2016

When was the last time someone told you they were “well pleased” with something you did?

What did you do to prepare for your career?

Jesus was doing some prep work. “How will I do my work?” “How will I set up my Kingdom?” “How will I get people to follow me?” “What is my strategy?”

Read Matthew 3:16-4:1

What is your understanding of the form in which this temptation was presented to Jesus?

Read Matthew 4:2-3

What is the longest you have gone without eating?

How did the hunger affect you?

If Jesus is hungry, what is wrong with having some bread you just made from a rock?

How would turning the stone into bread be a strategy for Jesus to use to get people to follow Him?

1. *It’s not all about the bread.*

If life is not all about bread, what is life about?

Read John 6:12-15

Compare this passage to the first temptation.

Why would Jesus not let them make him King?

2. *Don’t give them what they want.*

Read Matthew 4:5-7

What effect would this have had on Jesus’ mission?

How can that temptation apply to what we want Jesus to do today?

Read and give your thoughts on what Eugene Peterson said about this temptation: “The way of Jesus is not a sequence of exception to the ordinary, but a way of living deeply and fully with the people here and now, in the place we find ourselves.”

3. *Don’t force my way on others.*

Read Matthew 4:8-10

What was Jesus being tempted to do?

How would Jesus acquire his kingdom?

In rejecting this third temptation, Jesus rejected the way of the sword.

Read Matthew 16:21-23

What is the “Satanic” connection between Matthew 16 and Matthew 4?

Read Matthew 26:51-52

What does Jesus’ statement tell us about his method of establishing his Kingdom?

What does it say about ours?

The magazine, Christian History, said this about it’s cover story, “This issue, more than any other we've published, raises the awkward matter of forced conversions—“Be Christian or die.” There's no sense in pretending this was an exceptional missionary tactic; for many centuries, it was the method of choice among Christian rulers and missionaries. The conversion of much of Europe and of Latin America and North America is unimaginable without the sword.”

How do you respond to the above statement?

How are we still using the sword today?

James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, wrote, “Because we hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth, ‘that Religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence.’ The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”

How do we follow both James Madison and Jesus’ way when it comes to influencing others to follow Jesus?

What is your take-away from this teaching?