

CHAPEL, JANUARY 11, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture Lesson: 11 verses, Fourth Chapter Matthew

I re-read eleven verses from the Fourth Chapter of Matthew this morning that we might refresh our minds on the record of Matthew and the temptation of Christ, as it is called. Matthew says He was led out into the wilderness--he doesn't say He actually went into the wilderness. Yesterday I discussed the first temptation, the longing for things temporal when it might mean a sacrifice of things spiritual. Jesus answered that man does not live by bread alone.

The second recorded temptation dealt with the spiritual life. He was taken in spirit--no one thinks He was taken in the body--to the pinnacle of the temple and the temptation came to Him, Go up to the pinnacle of the temple and make a demonstration to the world here at this center of all Jewish religion, cast your physical body down off the temple; if you are the Son of God you will not be killed. A passage of scripture was quoted to prove that. Jesus refused to make a demonstration that would call the attention of the world to Him.

As a young man or young woman looks out over the world today, seeking to find the particular line of human activity in which to engage, personal gain, things temporal, appeal to him. The spiritual speaks to him, and he sees a great many people who are making quite a name for themselves in religion, and finds some names constantly in the news, and the temptation comes to go into religious activities on a big scale and call the attention of the world to himself as a Christian leader. (I do not mean for a minute that all religious leaders whose names we see in the papers are being pushed forward by ambition or a desire that the world know about them.) All the world came to hear John the Baptist and John was not advertising himself; came only as the forerunner of Jesus. The temptation may come to attract the attention of men, and that is a temptation prompted by the devil.

Let us look at the third temptation that came to Jesus. It is not unusual for a young person to go up to the mountain tops and look over the kingdoms of the

world and decide whether or not he will make a political career his life work. If he can be prompted by/<sup>a</sup>motive to serve humanity, if he can go into politics to help human beings, he should certainly do it, for we need more such people in politics in every nation. If he is to bow down and serve the devil in order that he may become great, may become wealthy, or a political leader of note, the service will be to the devil and not mankind. I am not making any accusations against political leaders, but as we look at conditions today it does look as if we have too many of these people who have bowed down to the devil that they might hold a high place in government, for they have certainly brought this world into a bad plight, so far as politics are concerned. You have read repeatedly that the world is suffering today because of poor leadership. One can rise to prominence by serving the devil, but sooner or later the truth always comes out. Jesus did not yield to that temptation, and after He had fought all these temptations the Angel of God came and ministered to Him. Just so in your lives, if you resist things evil, a feeling of satisfaction will come into your soul, as if an Angel of God were ministering unto you.