

MATTHEW 4:5-7

BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE

God entrusted the nation of Israel with kingdom principles for living on their road to Canaan

- They knew of God as this was passed down to them
- They knew of the promise God had given Abraham to bring his people out of Egypt to occupy the land promised him by God
- God began teaching them kingdom principles of life or living

God entrusted the nation of Israel with kingdom principles for living on their road to Canaan

- That's what all the miracles in Egypt were about
- That is what the giving of the Law was about
- All along the way to Canaan, God tested them to show them what was in their heart and to turn their hearts toward Him
- God does not tempt us to sin, but He will test our faith in His character, instruction, promises

God entrusted the nation of Israel with kingdom principles for living on their road to Canaan

- **James 1:13-15 NIV** 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

God entrusted the nation of Israel with kingdom principles for living on their road to Canaan

- **Proverbs 17:3 NLT** Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the (*purity of the*) heart.
- So how does God test the hearts of mankind?
 - **Isaiah 48:10 NIV** See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

So, it should not surprise us to find Jesus being test by God through the temptations of Satan

- After the magnificent high of God the Father telling Jesus, “You are my Son, whom I love; I am well pleased with you.”
- Jesus is immediately led into the wilderness for testing of His character, His trust in His Heavenly Father and His living out the principles of the Kingdom of God

Matthew 4:5-7 NIV

- 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ““He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

1st John 2:16 NIV 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the (boastful) pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

- Last week we looked at the “lust of the flesh”
 - Satan sought to prompt our Lord to act independently of the Father, and contrary to the leading of the Holy Spirit, saving His life by commanding stones to become bread

Last week we looked at the “lust of the flesh”

- It was the same temptation Adam and Eve failed at in Genesis 3
- It was the same temptation the Nation of Israel faced repeatedly and failed

Last week we looked at the “lust of the flesh”

- **Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV** He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
- This week’s testing, I would categorize as, “the (boastful) pride of life”

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- Very simply, “Look at me or it’s all about me or watch me or it’s all because of me”
- The pride of life is more like internal rejoicing over our superior circumstances or way of living or us

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- **Deuteronomy 8:10-14 NIV** 10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- **Deuteronomy 8:10-14 NIV** 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- The pride of life can look different for each person
 - To the businessman it can be his title and his balance sheet
 - To the scientist it can be his superior insight
 - To the Christian pastor, teacher or deacon it can be his perceived status over other Christians

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- This was very sin that resulted in Satan’s expulsion from heaven
 - **Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV** 12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- This was very sin that resulted in Satan’s expulsion from heaven
 - **Isaiah 14:12-14** 13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon (the most sacred mountain of the Canaanites). 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

We need to define “the (boastful) pride of life”

- It exalts self in direct contradiction to Jesus’ statement that those who would follow Him must take up their cross and deny themselves
- The pride of life stands in our way if we truly seek to be servants of God
- It is arrogance that separates us from others and limits our effectiveness in the kingdom.

The second temptation answers the question, “Will the King live by faith?”

- In **Deuteronomy 17** God identifies the Nation of Israel will demand a king in the future so He gives them the requirements for a king
 - The first qualification is that Israel’s king must be an Israelite, and not a foreigner
 - The second qualification for Israel’s king is that he must be divinely chosen

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- In **Deuteronomy 17** God identifies the Nation of Israel will demand a king in the future so He gives them the requirements for a king
 - The third qualification has to do with the accumulation of things: horses, silver, gold, wives. Horses, silver, and gold are things which give one the false impression of power and control

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- In **Deuteronomy 17** God identifies the Nation of Israel will demand a king in the future so He gives them the requirements for a king
 - A fourth requirement was that the king was to write out for himself a copy of the law, which was always to be with him

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- In **Deuteronomy 17** God identifies the Nation of Israel will demand a king in the future so He gives them the requirements for a king
 - It was to be written in and on “his heart”
 - The king must observe “all the words of this instruction”

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- In **Deuteronomy 17** God identifies the Nation of Israel will demand a king in the future so He gives them the requirements for a king
 - Furthermore, the king must not exalt himself above his fellow citizens, “turning from the commandment right or left”

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- **2nd Corinthians 5:7 NIV** 7 For we live by faith, not by sight.
- **Habakkuk 2:4 NIV** “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- Will Jesus do this?
 - King Saul the first king did not
 - Most of the following kings did not

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- Jesus identifies what Satan is saying is the true word of God but using it as Satan is presenting would presume upon the nature of God
 - Presumption - behavior perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, and transgressing the limits of what is permitted or appropriate

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- **Numbers 14:44-45 NIV** 44 Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the highest point in the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the Lord’s covenant moved from the camp. 45 Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.

The second temptation answers the questions, “Will the King live by faith?”

- **Deuteronomy 6:16 NIV** Do not put the Lord your God to the test
- **Matthew 4:4 NIV** “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
- No Satan, I will trust my Heavenly Father with all my heart, soul, mind and strength

How do we presume upon the Lord today?

- When we lean upon the grace and mercy of God without letting the Word of God transform our lives
 - Many Christians repeat the mantra, “Oh that doesn’t matter because I’m saved!”

How do we presume upon the Lord today?

- Salvation is not the end of our relationship with God, it is just the entry point
 - From that point forward we are to be at the task of allowing God to transform us into the image of Jesus Christ
 - Learning how He lived, Learning how He saw life, Learning what is important to Him

How do we presume upon the Lord today?

- We must learn to “live by faith and not by sight”
 - Not blind faith or even faith in faith
- We must accept the times of testing as God’s love for us and understand our Heavenly Father is using them to accomplish His purpose in our life
- You will not always understand

How do we presume upon the Lord today?

- There will be times the only things you have to hold onto are the character and word of God
- And that is when you are the safest and most secure
- Trusting His love, direction and timing for you personally

How do we presume upon the Lord today?

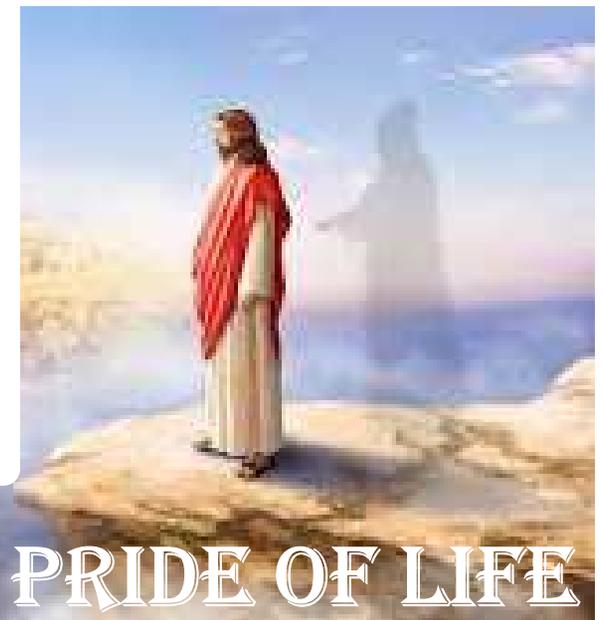
- **Proverbs 3:5-8 NIV** 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

A man builds a barn

- **Luke 12:16-20 MSG** 16-19 Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’

A man builds a barn

- **Luke 12:16-20 MSG** 20 “Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’
- **Psalms 90:12 NLT** Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.



MATTHEW 4:5-7

BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE