

ACQUIRING INFLUENCE

Mark 1:12, 13

Premise: How we handle the difficult experiences in our lives will determine the degree and kind of influence we have with others.

Three temptations from Satan: Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13

1. *"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*
Temptation is to satisfy his own physical needs.
2. *"If you are the Son of God...throw yourself down...."*
Temptation is for Jesus to assert personal privilege.
3. *"All this I give you...if you will bow down and worship me."*
Temptation was to seek power, authority & wealth.

Acquiring Influence:

1. Trials can purify our motives.
"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."
Matthew 6:24

"..I have...been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely.." 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

"...I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24

2. Trials can focus our priorities.
"...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:25-34
3. Trials can soften our hearts.
"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:15, 16

4. Trials can strengthen our faith.

“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.”

2 Timothy 1:12