

Sacrificing the Eternal
Matthew 4:8-11 and Deuteronomy 6:10-15

A transactional relationship is built on the expectation for _____. Both parties are concerned with how they will _____, not so much about how it will affect the other person. Our relationship to God was _____ to be a transactional one. This issue is at the heart of the 3rd temptation Jesus faced in the wilderness.

Jesus called Satan the “ruler of _____ world.” Eph. 2:2 calls the devil “the _____ of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” 1 Cor. 4:4 calls him the “god of this age.” The devil could give Jesus the world, but what he always leaves out is how _____ and _____ his authority is.

We saw it in the temptation of Job. God limited Satan’s ability to test him. We also know that God has established an _____ for this world, so any gains the devil might be able to provide us will produce _____ than promised and be _____ at best. A pastor friend often said to me, “Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the _____.”

Satan’s real goal was to convince Jesus to exchange His relationship of _____ and _____ to the Father for a transactional one. He was saying, “I can sell you what you came for at a _____.”

In fact, a relationship with God can never be a transactional one because we could never offer Him something as _____ as His love and _____.

Still, some are guilty of telling God, “If you don’t do as I wish...make my path easier, richer, pain-free, I will find _____ to whom I will devote my time, my energy, my wealth, my life.”

Whenever we are tempted to see our relationship to God as transactional rather than one of love and devotion alone, the words of Scripture and of Jesus should _____ back to true faith: “Worship the Lord your God and serve Him _____!”