

**“FOLLOWING JESUS: UPSIDE DOWN”**  
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**1. DEFINITION OF TEMPTATION: AN INVITATION TO EMBRACE SELF-INTEREST.**

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. (Matthew 16:25 NIV)

**2. JESUS IS THE BRIDGE FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW.**

But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. (Matthew 3:14-15)

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

**3. JESUS IS TEMPTED WITH THE OLD WAY VS. THE NEW WAY.**

<sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:2-4)

**OLD WAY: DO LIFE FOR YOUR SELF.**

**NEW WAY: DAILY LIVE DEPENDENT ON YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.**

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"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.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:5-7)

**OLD WAY: A RELIGION OF SUPERSTITIONS.**

**NEW WAY: COME TO GOD AS A CHILD AND SIMPLY ASK.**

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8-9)

**OLD WAY: THE LEADER LEVERAGES WEALTH, POWER, AND INFLUENCE FOR SELF OVER SUBJECTS.**

**NEW WAY: THE KING LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SUBJECTS.**

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10)

**4. JESUS IS ABOUT A NEW WAY OF LIVING THAT IS UPSIDE DOWN.**

**MEMORY VERSE**

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 4:45)

**5. JESUS VALUED YOU MORE THAN THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD.**

### **WHAT GOOD IS IT?**

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? (Luke 9:25)

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. What are some worldly examples or your own life of powerful people going off the rails morally, ethically, or financially?
2. In what ways are you tempted to put yourself ahead of others? What does it take for you to resist those temptations?
3. Read Matthew 4:1–10. What stands out to you in this story of Jesus resisting temptation? What details are surprising or new to you?
4. Read Mark 10:24. Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus came to serve *you*? Why or why not?
5. Read Luke 9:25. In what ways are you currently striving to “gain the world”? What is one thing you can do to let go and embrace Jesus’ “Upside-Down Kingdom”? How can we encourage you?