Turning from Good to God

Mt. 4:1-11

Intro. - A. Spoke this morning of baptism of Jesus and the commitment of Jesus to the purposes of God. He has said - "I accept the will of God in my life."

1. This the basic decision overarching all others.
2. He who by power thru Christ is willing to relate himself to certain institutions + causes that are good, finds he's a pathless jungle.

B. But this decision alone not enough. Now translate in terms of life, relationships, activity. What is God's will?

1. Recall fresh buoyancy of your baptism! How simple life seemed. Cross of the roads; good + evil; right and wrong. "I will." Then came the days + months and years of testing.

More b. Pt. II

2. "Do the Christian thing."

C. So now with Jesus.

1. Some find difficulty with this temptation.
2. Remember the higher, the greater danger of fall.
3. Accepting will of God not escape from but interpretation of temptation.
4. Can't have storm in majestic good. Extent of storm depends on capacity perceived.
5. Tempted at point of strength, not weakness. Ever true. Beauty, charm, power, strength.

D. So in this struggle, alone in desert.

1. Alone in sense man is ever alone.
2. Alone in that there is no one to share. Man who makes God his governing consideration a mystery.
3. No time for advice. As TB patients breathing in each other's face.
4. And man needs to be alone, at war with self, make casualties of those he loves.

I The Struggle.

A. With the Good.

1. Stones to bread. Before mind's eye, visions came. visions of poor. Empty faces; life reduced to struggle for meal. Low aspiration. Self-Sufficiency of half-dollar. Must wear charity sweater. What a minority! Smiles, light to eyes.
2. This is good. He who says not never heard of 50% of world, drives along best streets. yet - Not live by bread alone. It is good. But good as it is, must be in larger context of total life of man before God.

2. Kg'doms of world. what wrong to be righted so?. in chains, Freedom! Equality! Lift up man with Jesus. How vital, good, right such a struggle. yet pulpit not platform; Gospel not nat'l anthem. Relative good not absolutized.

B. With the Scriptural.
1. Mind moved over not only the good but the Script.
2. "He will give angels charge concerning thee ---"
3. Meets with another Scripture
c. What this mean - tempted by good, by Scriptures?

II The Ambiguous Nature of Life.
A. Greatest Fault of CL in My life - overmingledness Life.
1. Where I get idea good life is avoiding wrong (sinful servant); game of hide + seek; demonic game on brink of wrong
2. Where I get idea of standing at crossroads. Sound Books that got untitled. "There is a way that seems right ---"
3. Where get idea evil comes as villain in B movie? Milton's picture of Sin at gates of Hell.

B. Fact is, Life ambiguously deceptive.
1. Deceptive in source of spiritual ruin Relatives, boyfriend, father, the boys. Jesus to friend - "Satan."
2. Deceptive in that spiritual powers gradually lost. Luke feathers + worms. Calgary paralysis.
3. Deceptive in that life can be destroyed by relative goods. Martha.
Man asked me in Tulsa - arrange one week's schedule - Work, Home, Church.

III What, Then, is the Path to be Taken?
A. Jesus' determination: No relative value be absolute, only God absolute. all else but be determined as it stand before him. His character reflected in every decision. Not matter of ch. or home, or business, but all before God.
B. Keep alert + sensitive to will of God.
1. Talk with committed Christians.
2. Worship. Light on God's home different.
3. Talk it over with former ch's - Paul, Peter, Luke.
4. Talk with God. Impossible otherwise. C.S. Horne's Garden of Imagin. - "Look how high it is."
c. London Costume Ball.