

What Do We Know About Jesus? (7)

Jesus and Temptation

It is important for us to understand that Jesus was a man. Look at Philippians 2:7 "but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; Now in Hebrews 4:15 we have this statement; "For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as {we are, yet} without sin." The only conclusion that an honest individual could come to is, "Jesus was a man and was tempted as a man". So, what ever Jesus did in resisting temptation, he did as a man. How did Jesus do this? How was Jesus so successful? Why are we often unsuccessful? What was his secret? If we could just find out, then you and I do just what he did, we also could become successful in resisting temptation. Listen to the inspired writer Peter; "For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered threatened not; but committed {himself} to him that judgeth righteously:" (1Peter 2:21-23) The above scriptures clearly teaches that Jesus was a man and He is our example.

There would be only two reasons for us not to follow His example: a. We want to go to hell. b. We have no sin. I can only speak for myself, I do not want any part of (a), and I'm guilty of (b), so therefore, I need to follow Jesus example. If I understand Romans 3:23,"for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;" no one who has reached the age of accountability has lived a sinlessly perfect life. However, his sin is not attributed to a defective nature or insufficient grace, but to his free will choice to transgress the Lord's will.

Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil (Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4: 1-12). The temptation of the second Adam reminds us of the Devil's temptation of the first Adam. Both Adam and Jesus were tempted by food; both appealed to man's lust for power; on both occasions, the Devil created doubt in God's word; Look at Genesis 3:4-5,"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil."; now, Luke 4:3,"And the devil

said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command this stone that it become bread."--"if thou art the Son of God" However, what succeeded in the Garden of Eden failed on this occasion.

Look at the temptations Jesus faced for you and I. After 40 days without food the Devil said; turn stone into bread, (4) And Jesus answered unto him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone."; Now the Devil makes his second offer; (5) And he led him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. (6) And the devil said unto him, To thee will I give all this authority, and the glory of them: for it hath been delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." (note: all authority to be given without enduring the suffering of Calvary). With two failures, the Devil quoted Scriptures:(10)"for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, to guard thee: (11) and, On their hands they shall bear thee up, lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone."

It is very important to notice that Jesus relied on the written word of God to overcome the Devil--LK.4:4,8,12--"it is written". Jesus did not use supernatural or miraculous power.

In Jesus reply to the Devil, He made this statement, LK 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Beloved, we can not serve two masters (Luke 16: 13)"...or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." If your not serving God under His Standard, you are despising GOD! Jesus our example followed the written WORD OF GOD, so must we...