

Series: Walk Like Jesus Did

WALK IN HOLINESS

1 PETER 1:16 & LUKE 4

Text: 1 Peter 1:16

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¹⁶ *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Introduction:

As we continue looking at the example our Saviour left for us to follow in we consider His Walk of Holiness.

A life lived in holiness is a life lived for God's purposes and for God's pleasure.

In contrast a life lived sinfully is a life lived for self and selfish purpose and pleasure.

Turn with me to Luke 4.

The setting we find the Lord very early in His public ministry.

He had just been baptized in the Jordan River and shortly afterward was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

And for forty days the Lord was tempted by the devil.

And it's this event that I want to consider this evening the example of holiness our Lord demonstrated.

We see in the illustration the:

Temptation to Be Selfish

Temptation to Be Successful

Temptation to Be Spectacular

Note

1. THE PATTERN OF THE TEMPTER

A. We See On Display the Temptation to be Selfish

Luke 4:3

³ And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

Keep in mind it had been forty days since the Lord had eaten.

- Satan often comes at a time of weakness.

It is a dangerous time in a Christian's life when we are tired or hungry or sick, as we often are vulnerable to self-pity and rationalization.

- Satan desired that the Lord would misuse His power

There was nothing wrong with bread.

The power of the Lord was not used on Himself, but was used to demonstrate His deity to others.

John 4:34

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Note only do we see the temptation to be selfish but also:

B. The Temptation to be Successful (vs. 5-7)

Luke 4:5-7

⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Illustration:

A young attorney started his first practice. He was ambitious and excited about how great his firm would

soon be. His phones had not yet been hooked up, but he quickly picked up the phone when he heard footsteps toward his office.

Looking as dignified as possible, the new attorney said, “Yes, this is Attorney Jones. I need to do depositions tomorrow.” Then a man walked into his office.

“Can I help you?” asked the young attorney.

“Yes, I’m here to turn on your phone service.”

Satan tempts the Lord with the power and authority of this world. He attempts to have Christ worship him.

This temptation was on the basis of Satan’s temporary power in the world.

Satan has taken many godly Christians to a mountain and offered them the power and prestige of this world, if they would follow his plan.

Satan, like a good fisherman baits, his hook according to the appetite of the fish.

That’s why we’re instructed in 1 John:

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Satan will tempt with wealth, success, fame, or position.

Remember:

Not every promotion or “opportunity” is necessarily from God.

Note only do we see the temptation to be selfish and successful but also:

C. The Temptation to Be Spectacular (vs 9)

Luke 4:9

⁹ *And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:*

Illustration: Pride and a Salesman

I heard the story of a salesman who closed hundreds of deals by saying, “Let me show you something several of your neighbors said you couldn’t afford.”

The Lord is at the pinnacle of the temple.

Satan quotes scripture. By the way most cults know some of the Bible.

Remember:

- God's way of redemption was not sensationalism, but the Cross.

Certainly, the Jews would receive Him as Messiah if He were caught by the angels!

- Christ did not come merely to stir the emotions, but to speak the truth.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; ⁶ Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

We have considered the Pattern of the Tempter but note secondly how the Lord dealt with the temptation and the:

2. POWER OF THE SCRIPTURE

In each temptation the used scripture

Note:

Luke 4:6

⁶ *And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*

Luke 4:8

⁸ *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Luke 4:12

¹² *And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

Too often we are look for some great formula to help us live a holy life when we have at our disposal the most powerful resource available – The Word of God.

We find in God’s Word the Promises to those who are Tempted

I heard the story not long ago about a boy that was instructed by his dad not to swim in the pond down the road.

When he came home one evening he was carrying a towel and his dad ask him if he had been swimming in the pond.

His son said yes.

His dad ask him why had had disobeyed his instruction and went swimming in the pond.

His son explained “I had my swimming trunks with me.”

His dad asks him why he had taken his swimming trunks with him and his son said, “So I’s be prepared to swim in case I was tempted.”

Many today are carrying around things just in case they are tempted.

Close:

Remember:

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Satan will temp us even as he did the Lord.

He will tempt us to be selfish, successful and spectacular.

Following the Lords example we must resist Satan's schemes by relying on the word of God.

Like the Lord we must have an unwavering loyalty to the priorities, purpose and pleasure of our Heavenly Father.