

SEEING JESUS

Tempted Of The Devil

I. You can get so tuned into spiritual things that natural things become secondary; Jesus wasn't hungry until after the fast-Matthew 4:2, Colossians 3:2

- A. Jesus got so hooked into spiritual things and what God was going that natural stuff became secondary, faint, and carried no weight
 - 1. Sure his body was hungry (if he did fast food), but he wasn't all that aware of it because he was so aware of his spirit and spiritual things
 - 2. You can get so tuned into God's word and what it says that what everybody and everything else says means nothing
 - 3. This doesn't mean that Jesus was some spiritual flake always acting spooky, but he was however aware of the spiritual implications of all that surrounded him
- B. It helps us to be more spiritually aware and awake to spiritual things
 - 1. Carnal immature people will always gravitate towards the natural
 - a. Mark 8:15-16-Jesus was talking a spiritual bread, words, and they're thinking about natural bread
 - b. EX: Politicians; people get mad at flesh b/c they gravitate towards the natural
 - c. Matthew 14-Jesus was spiritually situationally aware
 - 2. We need to develop spiritual situational awareness; always being aware of the spiritual atmosphere and climate of every situation we are in
 - a. Ephesians 1:18-When you see it from the right perspective you can take the spiritual action necessary to rectify it

II. Jesus lived a spirit-led life-Matthew 4:1

- A. He didn't just decide to go up into the wilderness because he wanted to; he was led
- B. If Jesus was being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, then we know it's going to lead to these six things:
 - 1. The more free you'll be
 - 2. The more sanctified you'll be
 - 3. The further away you get from Satan's plan for your life
 - 4. The more effective you'll be
 - 5. The more you'll experience all the good things that God has prepared for you
 - 6. The more victory you'll see
- C. The Holy Spirit never leads you into something that will lead to your harm

III. This is an opportunity for Jesus to be promoted-Matthew 4:1-2

A. Did the Holy Spirit lead him into this desert place to be tempted/tested/proved of the devil? Yes. Why?

God will give you opportunities to prove that you are ready for more.

1. There is a proving or testing that is good-1 Peter 1:7
 - a. John 6:5-9-Jesus asked Philipp a question to prove/test him
 - 1) He's giving Philipp an opportunity to respond in faith and to prove himself
 - b. Exodus 16:4-God is giving them an opportunity to prove that they trust Him
 - c. Psalm 26:2-It is the will of God that we be examined, proved, and tried
 - 1) He's praying that the Lord give him opportunities to prove himself faithful
 - d. 2 Corinthians 13:5-We should be endeavoring to take advantage of the opportunities that we have to prove ourselves
2. Jesus is up here and it's proving time
 - a. We see our master proving himself when the opportunity to do so arose
3. James 1:13-God does not entice with sin, he doesn't solicit sin, he doesn't tempt you with sin; God doesn't use the curse that Jesus redeemed you from to test you; that's blasphemous and a slap in the face to Jesus; God's part is he always gives you something to do that's right; He's not tempting you to do wrong

B. Promotion in God's Kingdom, Jesus or otherwise, doesn't come without being proven

1. Matthew 25:14, Luke 19:15
 - a. He's not tempting them to do wrong with the money; he's giving them an opportunity to prove themselves faithful so that they can be promoted
 - b. Promotion only came to the ones who had been proven
 - c. Thank God for the opportunities that we get to prove ourselves
 - d. What they did with their opportunity determined the level of their promotion
2. Luke 16:10-11-What you do on the testing grounds is what you'll do in the real world
 - a. If you can't handle the fake stuff, you can't be trusted with the real (ex:bullets)
3. Promotion comes when you've proven yourself capable of handling it
 - a. EX: If an airplane doesn't prove itself in training it won't be promoted to runway
4. Tests reveal the truth about a thing
 - a. You can say something about yourself, but we don't find out the truth until you get under the pressure of a test/opportunity; These "proving times" bring the real you out; You don't prove yourself with words
 - 1) EX: You can say you love God, but that doesn't prove you love him-John14:15
 - b. The way you prove yourself worthy of the promotion is pass tests-Proverbs 28:20
 - 1) You've been commanded to prove yourself-2 Corinthians 13:5
 - c. Mt 25:21-The servant that didn't prove himself didn't get promoted to greater

5. You don't get promoted w/o being proven and you can't be proven w/o the tests
 6. God's not tempting Abraham to do wrong, He's giving him the opportunity to be tested, proven, and promoted (Genesis 22)
- C. God's interest in you being tested is so that you can be proven and promoted; not so that you can fail and be defeated
1. God didn't send Jesus up there to lose, he sent him up there to beat Satan in the head, pass the tests, and be promoted-1 Corinthians 10:13
 2. God doesn't test to teach, he tests to prove and promote
 - a. Anybody knows a good teacher teaches before the tests
 - b. Now if you don't pass the test God very well could teach you something in that
 3. God wants to promote you, but a promotion without being proven will be to your destruction and that's the purpose for the "tests"
 4. With enough grace any test can be passed with ease
- D. Jesus knew every attack is just an opportunity to be proven faithful and see promotion
1. If we don't operate with a "proven" mentality, then we won't live a promoted lifestyle; you have to have the mentality that every opportunity you have to prove it you are going to do just that
 2. We are all at different places spiritually so what can you handle?
 - a. There's benefits for the grown up, for the obedient that others won't get
 - b. Sometimes God just wants to see what you're going to do to show you who you really are and where you're really at
 3. Luke 4:14-Jesus past the test and then got the promotion
- E. The pressure of the test is a precious or valuable thing (1 Peter 1:7)
1. The pressure of the test is precious b/c w/o it there would be no proven & no promotion
 - a. Jesus being led up there by the spirit to be tempted was a precious thing; he has the opportunity to pass the test and be promoted
 - b. You got to get a revelation of precious pressure
 2. The time of pressure is no time to cave in; it is the time to prove yourself
 - a. Pressure should lead to proven & proven will always lead to promotion (Daniel 3)
- F. When Jesus is being tempted, tested and tried that leads to this great promotion it's on the level of his thoughts
1. Is casting down every imagination and every thought that's against the Word and big deal to God?- Romans 8:5-6
 - a. When your thought life becomes life or death to you, you'll guard it
 2. Every test and in that regard every promotion begins on the level of your thought life
 - a. How are you going to deal with and handle your thoughts? God is watching