

JESUS ALSO ENDURED TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1-11

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everyone is faced with temptations and so often yield to those temptations. It is hard to say "no" to some things that really tempt. Being born without the sinful nature that everyone else is born with, Jesus still faced severe temptations but in a different manner. Our temptations seem to attack our areas of weakness and that which seems to be the best, strongest parts. Jesus was true to His Heavenly Father and He was true to Himself. Jesus was tempted to be untrue to those He had come to save, untrue to God and to all that Jesus was within Himself. The time of His temptation was just when He was ready to begin His ministry, He had been baptized by John the Baptist and endowed with gifts from Heaven for His ministry. Just when Jesus was starting His lifework and ministry Satan came to tempt Him.

I. JESUS' FIRST TEMPTATION SEEMED HARMLESS

1. Jesus had been fasting for 40 days and therefore had not eaten.
 - What harm would there be in turning stones into bread to satisfy His hunger?
 - God fed His people Manna while they were in the desert.
 - Elijah had been fed by birds.
2. The temptation was using His God-given powers that were to be used for others in satisfying His own need.
 - Jesus had identified Himself with mankind by being baptized as others were being baptized.
 - Jesus had stood where sinful people were standing and identified Himself with them.
 - If Jesus had created bread, He then would no longer be as an ordinary man.
 - Later on in His ministry, Jesus fed thousands with loaves and fishes, using His powers for others.
 - If Jesus had used His powers for Himself, He would have broken His union/brotherhood with mankind.
3. Satan was telling Jesus to use for Himself that which had been given to Him to be used for others.

II. JESUS' SECOND TEMPTATION WAS TO TEST HIS OWN FAITHFULNESS

1. Everyone expected the promised Messiah to appear in great glory and splendor suddenly out of the sky.
 - Jesus knew that God's Kingdom was to grow slowly, not instantly.
2. Jesus resisted the temptation to get everything over with quickly but to continue as quietly as He had come (being born in Bethlehem, in a stable, quietly, privately).
3. Jesus remained faithful to Himself and the manner that He was to minister.

III. JESUS' THIRD TEMPATION WAS TO TEST HIS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD, HIS FATHER

1. Satan tempted Jesus with popularity and acceptance among all the people.
 - Being popular and well liked is a desire that every person would do about anything to be/have.
 - "Do what Satan asks and instantly whatever you want will be granted" is what Jesus was being tempted to do.
2. What a strong, fierce temptation to not have to go through all the trouble, ache, pain and turmoil to have everyone's attention and to be accepted and in the end to avoid the agony of the cross.
 - Jesus refused the temptation and instead took the long road wet with sorrow and tears, the road that led to the crown of thorns, the cross and the pierced side, hands and feet.
3. Jesus came to do the will of His Heavenly Father and that is what He did.

CONCLUSION:

1. Although Jesus was born sinless and without the sinful nature everyone else has, He was indeed tempted as every human being is tempted all his/her earthly life.
2. Unlike the rest of us, Jesus did not yield to the temptations He faced during His lifetime here on earth.
3. Jesus wanted only to do what He came to do and that was the will of God, His Heavenly Father.
4. When a person becomes a child of God, he/she becomes POSITIONALLY sinless in Jesus Christ but still is "a sinner saved by grace."
 - Sinlessness is not acquired by one's everyday victories against temptation, but through the sinlessness of Jesus Christ.
5. Yes, Jesus faced temptations and did not yield and through Him, every believer can also be victorious over his/her temptations.