



Lent Day 4, February 25, 2012 Be Prepared, Not Scared

Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. "For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' "and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash you foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord you God.'" Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. Luke 4:9-13

In this last set of temptations that the devil throws at Jesus, we see the devil using scripture, but twisting it away from God's intended purpose. God never meant that we should recklessly throw ourselves into harm's way. We live on this earth and our human bodies are subject to the laws of nature that God designed. As a matter of fact, God tells us to take care of our bodies, because as we learn in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, our bodies are really a temple for the Holy Spirit to reside in. Jesus paid a steep price for us, so we are to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits. They belong to God. Jesus knew all this, so he knew not to tempt God by mistreating His body.

The second point that we learn is that Satan left Jesus until the next opportune time arose for another round of temptation. This will also happen to us. What is an opportune time for Satan is an *inopportune* time for us. Temptations will hit us when we are most vulnerable.

- When we are tired
- When we are sick
- When we are busy
- When we are broke
- When we are spiritually dry
- When we are depressed
- When we are angry

In those times, we are easy prey for our enemy unless we are prepared. 1Peter 5:8 tells us to be vigilant because the devil is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. We need to be "prayed and scripted up" so that we are ready for an attack. Be prepared, not scared.

Application: 1. Remember that we should never use scripture to try to manipulate God. We need to be careful to interpret it in the way God intended.

2. Remember that God's plans and purposes transcend our own. Our selfish desires to take charge of things ourselves,(which is at the heart of at least one of the ways Satan tempted Jesus) because we think we know what is best for ourselves, can and will get us into trouble. It leaves us open to temptation.
3. Maintain your daily prayer and Bible study time. This keeps us grafted to Jesus and builds up our spiritual strength so that we can resist the devil's attacks.
4. Realize that being tempted is not a sin--giving in to the temptation is.

Prayer: Lord,

I thank you for giving me insight into how to handle temptations. Help me to rightly interpret the Word. I pray for wisdom and discernment. May I learn to desire the things that you want for my life and let you lead my plans. Teach me to pray and hear from you and then move forward in confidence as you lead. May I store up your word in my heart so that I don't sin by giving in to temptation. Amen.