

To Be Like Jesus

Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). All other things about our faith should fall in line with that number one goal. Faith, hope, love, kindness, etc. are all wonderful things that go along with following Jesus, but salvation is the reason Jesus came to earth and died for our sins.

Peter teaches us to follow, "in His steps" (I Peter 2:21) so we must know what that means and how to do it. The simple answer is that we are to become like Him, imitate His behaviors (I Corinthians 11:1), adopt His attitudes (Philippians 2:5), and consider others more important than self (Philippians 2:3). To be like Jesus we must learn to think like He thinks, love like He loves, and forgive like He forgives.

To be like Jesus we must also learn to stand against temptation like He did. In Matthew 4, Satan comes literally to tempt Jesus. If He can get Jesus to sin then Jesus cannot be the sacrifice for sins because He would not be perfect. (From the Old Testament to Hebrews chapters 9-11, we learn that the sacrifice must be perfect, not blemished, and also that ultimately the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin, Hebrews 9:4, but the blood of Jesus can and does, Matthew 26:28).

In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus is tempted by Satan three times. *Each time Jesus quotes scripture in His defense against each specific temptation. So must we!* To be like Jesus in times of temptation we should learn to quote specific scriptures to combat the specific sin which we are tempted to commit. Jesus was, "*tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin,*" (Hebrews 4:15).

When we fail and fall we have precious forgiveness from God each and every time we truly repent. But it is immeasurably better to avoid Satan's pitfalls before we sin. To be more and more like Jesus we can learn to stand strong against craftiness and deceitful scheming (Ephesians 4:14). We must never be ignorant of Satan's schemes (II Corinthians 2:11). To know what scriptures to quote we must know the scriptures. That must come from reading God's word. That must come from studying and remembering His book.

"When you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ," (Ephesians 3:4). And when we understand and remember we will be able to quote God's word in times of temptation. What an amazing way to *be like Jesus!*

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