

Walking Free

September 4, 2022

Luke 4:1-13 MEV

Introduction

Has God set you free from anything? Jesus tested for 2 reasons: To prove He was different from Adam. To show us how to overcome temptation. Tempted: to test, to try, to prove. Word Study NT: has the intention of proving that one has been evil or to make him evil. Before salvation, we were slaves to sin & under devil's authority. He wants us to return to both.

Main Idea

Walk free. How? Follow Jesus' example in these two ways.

- 1) First, expect the enemy he'll always return, vs. 13

Matthew 4:1, MEV: Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.

- a) he comes when we are vulnerable: tired, stressed, sick, overwhelmed, bored...even after victory (weary, relaxed)
- b) he tempts us to do what he wants us to do
 - i) will always be contrary to God's will
 - ii) will always harm us in the long run
- c) he tempts us through our flesh...weakness, pride (3,6,9)

EX. belly full, misused power

NOTE: includes beliefs, behaviors, lifestyles of the world (Fire)

- i) appealing to what's "natural" in us
- ii) appealing to our old ways, habits

NOTE: Often his attack is through thoughts that seem like ours.

Illustration

2) Second, use God's power

a) be filled by the Holy Spirit (1, Eph. 5:18)

i) He helps us in our weakness: strengthens, leads, warns
(Romans 8:26)

Stamp: "helps" = means Holy Spirit "takes hold of" our weakness together with us or instead of us. (holding elbow of unsteady person)

ii) He gives us the mind of Christ (holy thinking)

NOTE: Stamp: Christians experience repeated or continual fillings by maintaining an active & growing faith in Jesus Christ, being filled with God's Word, praying, giving thanks & singing to the Lord, serving others, and obeying the Holy Spirit.

b) refocus ourselves (& enemy) with the Word of God

i) reminds us of God's power, holiness

ii) awakens us to danger

iii) shows us the way of escape (how to react)

c) do the Word (obey Word & Spirit...speaking in unison)

EX: live by God's word, not bread; worship only the Lord; do not tempt the Lord

i) protects us from ourselves

ii) keeps a "lid" on our sinful nature

iii) directly resists the enemy (not doing his will)

EX: Who controls the phone you use? You or the enemy?

NOTE: Jesus did not "cast out, "rebuke," or tell the devil to get lost. He safeguarded His own heart with the word and by obedience with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

2 pictures: backslider water skiing with big smile but hell's fire & demons behind him; Christian chained to wall but with Jesus & glory behind

Altar

Are you being tempted now? Have you fallen recently?