

## **The Amazing Jesus His Amazing Moral Purity**

**Intro: Each month this year we're taking time to reflect upon the amazing character of Jesus. There are so many things about him that we need to admire and imitate. We've already talked about his amazing prayer life, his amazing compassion for people in their suffering, his amazing forbearance with his disciple's failings, his amazing patience with God's timing, and his amazing relationship with his family, and his amazing righteous indignation toward sin, his amazing meekness toward others, and his amazing submissive to God.**

**Now let's consider another quality of the amazing Jesus--his amazing moral purity. When we read about the life of Jesus we are impressed with the ethical and moral perfection of His character.**

### **The Scriptures affirm that Jesus was without sin.**

First it was a claim that Jesus made about himself.

*"Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? (John 8:46)*

And those who knew him best affirmed that it was the truth. Peter affirmed it. He applied the words of the innocent suffering servant of Isaiah to Jesus:

*...WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; (1 Peter 2:22)*

He described him as:

*but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:19)*

And John who wrote Jesus' words in the gospel affirmed it in his letters:

*And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:3)*

*And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. (1 John 3:5)*

*Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; (1 John 3:7)*

To Jesus, Peter, and John, we can add the testimony of the apostle Paul  
*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

And the Hebrew writer:

*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)*

**It would be easy to say, "So what? Jesus was the Son of God." However His sinlessness cannot be dismissed as unremarkable simply because he was the Son of God.**

**The Scriptures equally affirm that Jesus was tempted as we are.**

*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15–16)*

Paul writes about Jesus:

*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (Romans 8:3)*

Perhaps Paul uses the expression "likeness of sinful flesh" to make clear that Jesus' physical nature was no different from our own. He was fully capable of experiencing the same fleshly desires that have caused us to sin.

The Hebrew writer affirms that Jesus shared our nature as human beings and was tempted in that human nature.

*Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:17-18)*

When Jesus began his ministry, it was necessary that He be tested by temptation in order to prove His worthiness to be our Savior and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for that purpose.

*And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him. (Mark 1:13)*

Yet in every case, He resisted the temptation to sin and overcome the temptation.

### **Jesus' moral perfection is seen in...**

#### **His refusal to perform miracles for his own selfish purposes**

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:1-4)*

Satan's appeal involved not only the appeal to satisfy physical hunger but also to prove to Satan that He had power to provide for himself.

Jesus resisted Satan's appeal to assert his independence; instead trusting in God to provide His needs.

#### **His refusal to test God in order to prove who He was**

*Then the devil \*took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,<sup>6</sup> and \*said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, He will give His angels charge concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:5-7)*

Satan's appeal once more appealed to Jesus to prove his relationship to God; and at the same time to test God to see if He really would save him from death. Jesus resisted, remembering how Israel had tested God in the wilderness by not trusting Him to care for them.

**His refusal to obtain the kingdom by compromise or without obedient worship of God**

*Again, the devil \*took Him to a very high mountain, and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus \*said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"* (Matthew 4:8-10)

Satan offered Jesus a kingdom without a cross. If only He would bow down to Him, He would give Him everything. But Jesus knew that only His Father was worthy of worship; and that only in obeying Him could he received the promised kingdom as the Messiah.

**His refusal to please the masses**

**Though Jesus wanted people to believe in Him, He resisted the temptation to accommodate their carnal wishes. For example He resisted:**

**Their desire to see a sign**

*They said therefore to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"* (John 6:30)

Jesus simply would not allow people define the conditions of faith. That was God's business and He would not allow them to make demands beyond what God had already chosen to give to support their faith.

**Their desire to make Him king**

*Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.* (John 6:15)

Jesus would not allow Himself to be exalted as a political Messiah. Though the people would have gladly made him a king that day, they did not understand His nature as king nor the means by which that kingdom would come about.

**His refusal to avoid the cross**

*From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."* (Matthew 16:21-23)

Jesus answer to Peter seems harsh until we remember that Peter was a voice of the enemy God. It is easiest to do wrong when someone loyal

to us is urging us on! But Jesus would not succumb to the suggestion of a friend, if it was contrary to the plan of God.

### **His refusal to return evil for evil**

*All the gospels reveal the hateful mistreatment that Jesus experienced by His enemies before and on the cross.*

*And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him, and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. "HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET HIM DELIVER Him now, IF HE TAKES PLEASURE IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"* And the robbers also who had been crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him. (Matthew 27:39–44)

In a moment of anger and frustration Jesus could have railed upon them and lashed out with similar words; but instead Peter says...  
*and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (1 Peter 2:23-24)*

### **His moral perfection teaches us...**

**That the spiritual sustenance through the word of God is more important to life than physical bread**

**That trusting God's care is more important than testing His commitment**

**That the service to God is more important than receiving anything Satan can give us**

**That doing what is right is more important than trying to prove something to others for the sake of our ego**

**That attaining God's exaltation through sacrifice is more important than attaining human exaltation through taking the easy way out**

**That trusting God's vindication is more important than getting personal revenge**

### **What Jesus' Sinlessness Means to Us**

***It shows us what is possible for those who truly want to righteous***

*My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; (1 John 2:1)*

Jesus shows us what is possible if we, like Him, resist the devil and trust in God's deliverance.

Indeed we will not be sinless like Jesus; but we can learn how to sin less through following His example.

***It assures us that we have an sufficient sacrifice for sin***

*... you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19)*

***It assures us that we have an intercessor who understands our condition***

*For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Heb. 2:18)*

***It assures us that we have the help we need when we pray.***

*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16)*

**Conclusion: The more aware we are of our own sinfulness, the more we'll appreciate the sinlessness of the Son of God. It was truly amazing!**