

"In His Steps" Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 4:1-13

Jesus Christ marked out a pattern for us to follow. In surrendering His will to the Father, He showed us what it can and should look like for a man or a woman to walk according to the direction of and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I. Surrender to the Father's will – Mt 3:13-17

Why was Jesus baptized? He didn't need to repent; didn't need forgiveness of sins. Submission to God's will.

Do nothing on my own initiative; John 5:30; 8:28; 42; 12:49; 14:10

"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." —John 5:30

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me." —John 8:28

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me." —John 8:42

"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak." —John 12:49

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works." —John 14:10

Most dramatic moment of Jesus life – Abandoned His own will. We see power begin to flow thru Christ's life in ministry to others as He surrendered. Less fully God? NO. God's intention that He be a model for us.

Mt 16:24. Deny self, take up cross.

II. Walk in the Spirit's power – Luke 3:21-22

What happened next? Spirit came upon Him.

- Jesus is God. Wasn't the Spirit always upon Him?
- Jesus is not the Spirit. Jesus is not the Father. Trinity = 3 persons
- Mt. 3:16; "coming upon"; OT terminology for empowering
- "came upon" for prophecy; came upon for warfare. Bezalel "filled" for creation of worship instruments (Ex 31:2-3)
- Jesus lived in submission to Father's will and dependence on Spirit's power.

Three resources used by Jesus on earth:

A. Spirit

- You possess the Spirit. Gal 3; Rom 8:9. Sign of NC. GOSPEL
- You experience the Spirit as you surrender your will
- do not get drunk with wine; Eph. 5. to live is Christ – Phil.

B. Sword of the Spirit; Word; "it is written"

C. Prayer – Lk 5:16; Daniel; Mark 9:14-29

All three reflect dependence

III. Confront the Father's enemy

A. Expect confrontation – Luke 4:1-2; Mark 1:12; Mt 4:1

God's will for Christ's life. Why?

God's purposes in testing His Son

It can be done! Man can remain faithful. a man/woman in complete dependence upon God is stronger than sin and the devil

Ministry characterized by confrontation with the adversary – Lk 4:31-34

- Approx 110 verses in gospels that mention either demons or Satan

Why in the wilderness? Jeshimmon ("The Devastation")

No distractions; only battle. Dirt, rocks, Satan and God's rep

Dt. 8:2-3

Comparison – Israel led through wilderness; failed God's test; complained; Jesus would succeed where Israel had failed

God's will for our lives. Sent the disciples – Luke 10:1-3; 10:17-18

Job – have you considered My servant Job?

Peter – sifted like wheat; Spirit came upon him at Pentecost

Here's the problem: From Barna's April 10, 2009 newsletter – only 35% of self-described Christians believe that Satan actually exists!!

B. Train for confrontation

1. Know the enemy's strategies

Deceit; Jn 8:44

Believe the lie – life can be found apart from God; Genesis 3

- Diminish the goodness of God
- Exaggerate the strictness of God
- Diminish the consequences of sin
- Deny the truth of God; begins by casting doubt on God's word

Three temptations are representative (1 John 2:15-16)

a. Lust of the flesh (Physical appetite for pleasure) – Luke 4:1-4

Wear us down; Duration – 40 days of temptation; Luke 4:1-2

Exploit His vulnerability – ate nothing; extreme hunger

legitimate need, available power; tempted to use divine power rather than rely on Father; provide us an example of how to live in dependence upon the Father rather than ourselves. Didn't pull out deity when things got tough.

Rather starve than meet my needs apart from God's will

Will God meet my needs? Will He meet my needs soon enough? Loneliness; children; finances

b. Lust of eyes (desire to possess at no personal cost) – Luke 4:5-8

Luke 4:6 – world handed over to Satan; Christ does not dispute this

1 John 5:19

Why was this a temptation since Jesus knew He would eventually rule over the universe? OT and NT validation

Kingdoms without the cross – Mt. 16:23

c. Pride of life (Ambition for prestige and approval) – Luke 4:9-13

extremity, end, edge of Temple Mount; place where people called to worship; main thoroughfare below, filled with a marketplace

prove who you are; be somebody; prove that you matter to God

significance

already had the approval of the Father – Mt. 3:17

2. Learn your vulnerabilities

3. Master your weapons

a. Surrendered will/fullness of Spirit

b. Word and Prayer

Satan quotes scripture; clues in on Jesus' strategy; Ps. 91:11-12; out of context, mis-applied; knows the word from 2500 years of study

Application

1. Study enemy's strategies
2. Learn your vulnerabilities
3. Master your weapons