

## Jesus' Victory Over the Devil

February 25th, 2016, Home Meeting at Kodaira  
Gotthold Beck

イエス様の悪魔に対する勝利  
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### Matthew

3:16 When Jesus had been baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened up for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

3:17 Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him!"

4:1 After this, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

4:2 After fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, he finally became hungry.

4:3 Then the tempter came. "Since you are the Son of God," he said, "tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

4:4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One must not live on bread alone, but on every word coming out of the mouth of God.'"

4:5 Then the devil took him to the Holy City and had him stand on the highest point of the Temple.

4:6 He told Jesus, "Since you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, because it is written, 'God will put his angels in charge of you,' and, 'With their hands they will hold you up, so that you will never hit your foot against a rock.'"

4:7 Jesus responded to him, "It is also written, 'You must not tempt the Lord your God.'"

4:8 Once more the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, along with their splendor.

4:9 He told Jesus, "I will give you all these things if you will bow down and worship me!"

4:10 Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! Because it is written, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

4:11 So the devil left him, and angels came and began ministering to him.

[International Standard Version]

These verses remind me of a German song, "Jesus, my Lord is the Victor and He is alive!" This is exactly the source of our joy.

When people encounter Jesus, they begin to have a desire to follow Him from their hearts. Jesus should be the foundation of their lives, everything in their lives

and at the same time, the purpose of their lives.

It is written in Matthew 4:10, "You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him. "These are the words Jesus spoke when He was tempted in the wilderness. If we were to entitle these verses of the Bible, it would read, "Jesus as the Victor," or "Jesus' Victory Over the Devil." It is only in the midst of adversity and in difficult circumstances of life, that men come to realize what is hidden within them.

Here, Jesus was left in an agony that was too deep and horrible for words. After this, He was tested through the temptations of the Devil. However, it was in the midst of these temptations that the greatness of Jesus was revealed to us. We can see from chapter 4, verse 1 that "Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit." That is to say, Jesus acted 100 percent based on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and it was absolutely unthinkable for Him to do something according to His own intention. He had never followed His own will even for a moment. Jesus had never acted based on His own thoughts, His emotions or His intentions throughout His life.

Let us look at this verse from John. This was what Jesus spoke to His disciples:

### John

14:30 "I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me."

Why did all the attempts of the Devil on Jesus fail, in spite of his being the ruler of this world? It was because Jesus never stopped being completely obedient to His Father in heaven. The Devil could have done absolutely nothing on this obedient Jesus. We see here two worlds colliding. One is the world of the Lord God and the other is the world ruled by the Devil. It is a conflict between light and darkness, truth, and deception.

### Matthew

3:16 "When Jesus had been baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened up for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

3:17 Then a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him!'"

God the Father, Jesus as God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit revealed "The Savior of this world." Jesus was baptized and through His baptism, He clearly declared His intention to offer His own life for the salvation of the world. Let us look at this most

important verse in the gospel according to Mark:

**Mark**

10:45: "Because even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many people."

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up for Him. The Spirit of God descended and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him!"(Matthew 3:17).

This is exactly the revelation of what is called the Trinity. When we read these verses, we understand that only the Lord Jesus was the one who pleased God. Jesus alone was by Himself the delight of the Father God. Still, all those who accepted Jesus as their own Savior will experience the love of the Lord God.

I have read about an incident that effectively illustrates this perspective. In wartime Germany, there was this judge who worked very busy all the time. One day, suddenly, he heard a knock on the door. He opened the door and saw a young man standing there. This young man apparently had just returned from the battlefield. Being covered with dirt all over his body, he looked so ragged and dirty. The judge was fully occupied with his job that day and decided to ignore this young man and return to his work. But, then, a letter the young man showed the judge caught his eyes and the pen fell out of his hand. He recognized the handwriting on the front of that letter. Instantly, he realized that the letter was written by his only son who was supposed to be in the battle front. The judge hastily opened the letter and read it: "My dear father, the man who carries this letter is my friend from the battlefield. Because of an incurable disease, he was removed from the hospital and was commanded to return to his hometown. Please father, consider this friend of mine as me, as your own son. Please let him stay in your house and take good care of him. Please grant my desperate wish." Now, this father, the judge jumped up in delight and as his son requested, he loved this young man and cared for him as if he was his own son.

The love of the Lord God is poured onto all those who have accepted His Son, Jesus, and repented. Let us look at this often-cited verse from the epistle to the Ephesians:

**Ephesians**

1:6 "So that we would praise his glorious grace that he gave us in the Beloved One."

Whoever accepted Jesus was given eternal life and

became the one who pleases the Lord God. Contrarily, the wrath of God would remain upon those who refuse Jesus as clearly stated in the Bible.

For forty days, Jesus stayed in the wilderness, fasted, and prayed. This was the period of preparation for Him for His public ministry in this world. No priest, no prophet, and no king was allowed to engage in ministry without being anointed first. Being anointed symbolizes fulfillment with the Holy Spirit. His experience in the wilderness clearly proved that Jesus was now qualified to completely sacrifice Himself to save this world. And at the end of His life, Jesus could declare the completion of His task. He confessed this way in His prayers:

**John**

17:4 "I glorified you on earth by completing the task you gave me to do."

It was actually the mission given to the first man, Adam, to reveal the glory of the Lord God on this earth. All things were entrusted to this man, Adam.

In entrusting all things to Adam, one condition was given to him, which was to live fully under the control of the Lord. After Adam, the ruler of all created things began to live in paradise, he was tempted by the Devil. He lent his ears to the words of the Devil and believed them. When he decided to live based on his own thoughts and intentions, he chose the way to withstand the Lord God. By being separated from the Lord God, he lost everything.

In the first epistle to Corinthians, we see these words; the first Adam and the last Adam.

**1 Corinthians**

15:45 "This, indeed, is what is written: "The first man, Adam, became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

15:46 The spiritual does not come first, but the physical does, and then comes the spiritual.

15:47 The first man came from the dust of the earth; the second man came from heaven."

In the Bible, Jesus is called the last Adam. This last Adam too was tempted by the Devil. However, unlike the first Adam who was placed in paradise, Jesus, the last Adam, was tempted by the Devil in this very wilderness. Furthermore, unlike the first Adam, Jesus was not placed in a position of ruler. Instead, He humbled Himself and took the form of a poor servant. This fact is testified in the Epistle to Philippians as follows:

**Philippians**

2:6 "In God's own form existed he, and shared with God equality, deemed nothing needed grasping.  
 2:7 Instead, poured out in emptiness, a servant's form did he possess, a mortal man becoming. In human form he chose to be,  
 2:8 and lived in all humility, death on a cross obeying."

It was simply because Jesus was fully obedient that He could work as the Savior of the whole of mankind, who were otherwise destined to perish. Through His full obedience to the Father God, Jesus regained everything that the first Adam lost. The first Adam lost the glory of God because of his disobedience.

**Romans**

3:23 "Since all have sinned and continue to fall short of God's glory."

Human beings even came to deserve the wrath of God. According to Ephesians chapter 2:3, by nature, human beings were destined for the wrath of God. And now, the Devil has become the ruler of this world. In the second epistle to the Corinthians, the Devil was called "the god of this world."

**2 Corinthians**

4:4 "In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe to keep them from seeing the light of the glorious gospel of the Messiah, who is the image of God."

Now, I would like to discuss quickly the temptations given to Jesus; there were three temptations.

The Old Testament explained that the Savior to come would arrive as the true priest, as the true prophet, and as the true king. We actually find in these verses from the Gospel according to Matthew that Jesus was described as the true priest, as the true prophet, and as the true king.

Through the first temptation, it was shown to us that Jesus was the only person in this world who had no sin at all. Jesus, having no sin, was the true priest and at the same time, the true mediator. Through this first temptation, Jesus had shown that He had the power to completely save the entire human race.

Through the second temptation, Jesus proved that He was the only one who would never lie. As the true prophet, Jesus flatly rejected the deceitful offers of the Devil.

And through the third temptation, Jesus manifested that He was the perfect Victor over the Devil. As the true king, Jesus consistently refused to indulge in any

kind of false worship.

During the first temptation, the Devil told Jesus, "Since you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." The Son of God, needless to say, God Himself, is the eternal God who took human form. The Devil is not an abstraction of bad influence or evil strength. He exists as a personal, concrete character. In the Bible, the Devil is called the ruler of this world. And the ultimate purpose of the Devil is to lead the human race into his trap of destruction and throw them into eternal damnation. In the Bible, the Devil is called the accuser, the deceiver, and the murderer.

It was actually a simple task for Jesus to change stone to bread. According to Matthew, chapter 3:9, Jesus even said that He could raise up descendants for Abraham from stones.

As a proof of this fact, Jesus later satisfied the hunger of five thousand men with just five loaves of bread and still, twelve baskets were filled with leftover pieces. Jesus reacted to the attack of the Devil with these words of God.

**Deuteronomy**

8:3 "He humbled you, causing you to be hungry, yet he fed you with manna that neither you nor your ancestors had known, in order to teach you that human beings are not to live by food alone — instead human beings are to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

Jesus, as a human, was determined to completely obey His Father God in heaven. During His stay on this earth, Jesus wished nothing but to reveal the glory of the Father God, and He never even thought of living for His own good. The only desire of Jesus was to carry out the will of the Father God and He was delighted in doing so. Let us look at what David, the author of the Psalms wrote. I believe that this was exactly the determination of Jesus too.

**Psalms**

40:8 "I delight to do your will, my God. Your Law is part of my inner being.  
 40:9 In the great congregation I have proclaimed the righteous good news."

And in the Gospel according to John, Jesus confessed and testified this way:

**John**

4:34 "My food is doing the will of the one who sent me and completing his work."

It is not a sin to make bread out of stones. Still, Jesus

never once acted on His own accord.

John

5:19 Jesus told them, "Truly, I tell all of you emphatically, the Son can do nothing on his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing."

5:30 "I can do nothing on my own accord. I judge according to what I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me."

8:28 ...you will know that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own authority. Instead, I speak only what the Father has taught me.

Jesus, at His own free will, sincerely and gladly casts His life into the plan and the guidance of His Father God. And Jesus rejected all things that might hinder Him from obeying His Father in heaven.

We have to pay special attention to this fact: the victory of Jesus always depends on our complete obedience to the Word of the Lord God.

A few decades ago, one student from the so-called Unification Church came to visit our assembly. This student said something like this: "I am totally against the belief of this assembly. It is because members of this assembly are strictly obedient to the Bible." If we follow nothing but the Bible, it will make the Unification Church lose all powers against us and at the same time, the Devil working behind them cannot even touch us.

What was the weapon Jesus fought with? He always used the Word of God to fight back. Why is the Word of God so precious? Because it reveals the light. David, who was called a man who satisfied the will of God, once confessed that the Word of God gives us a light.

Psalms

119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my pathway."

David was telling that the Word of the Lord was like a lighthouse, which gives a light. Not only a light, it also gives us joy.

Psalms

119:162 "I find joy at what you have said like one who has discovered a great treasure."

It was not only David, of course, the old-time prophet called Jeremiah had the same experience. I am sure that you all have read this verse a number of times. It

is truly a remarkable testimony:

Jeremiah

15:16 "Your words were found, and I consumed them."

He did not learn, he did not memorize, but he consumed His words.

15:16 "...Your words were joy and my heart's delight."

Through His Word, we are given the light and we are given joy. Moreover, His Word is by itself the truth.

Psalms

119:160 "The sum of your word is truth."

This was the confession of David. Of course, it was exactly the same attitude that Jesus took. Let us look at this simple sentence. This was what Jesus confessed in His prayers.

John

17:17 "Your word is truth."

In His prayers, Jesus confessed this way: "Your Word is truth." Jesus never wanted to make people obey Him with bread. No matter how rich and materially abundant people are, they cannot be free from the huge hunger and thirst they have deep in their hearts. One of the most serious problems of people living today is that though we have become materially rich, we are still poor in our hearts and suffer from hunger and thirst. Let us look at what Jesus answered in those days:

Matthew

4:4 "But he answered, 'It is written, "One must not live on bread alone, but on every word coming out of the mouth of God."'"

What does "the word coming out of the mouth of God" refer to? It refers to the Word of God recorded in the Scripture and at the same time it points to Jesus Himself.

John

6:33 The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

6:35 Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never become hungry, and whoever believes in me will never become thirsty."

6:37 Everything the Father gives me will come to

me, and I'll never turn away the one who comes to me.  
 6:38 I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the one who sent me.

John

6:40 This is my Father's will: That everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life.

6:47 Truly, I tell all of you emphatically, the one who believes in me has eternal life.

6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever.

The Word of the Lord God, the Bible represents, at the same time, the intention of our Lord. The Lord God desires to save all humans.

Matthew

1:21 "...he is the one who will save his people from their sins."

The Lord God is desperately willing to forgive all human beings. We can find this wonderful promise in the first epistle of John:

1 John

1:9 If we make it our habit to confess our sins, in his faithful righteousness he forgives us for those sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Through the first temptation, we understand that Jesus alone had no sin, and He truthfully desired to do nothing but the will of His Father God. Jesus wished to accomplish the will of His Father, which was to save human beings from their sins, and He had never desired to live for His own purpose. It was because of this that Jesus has become the true priest and the sole mediator between the Holy God and us. No one other than Jesus can solve the problem of our sins.

Our sins have separated us far from the Lord God. Jesus destroyed this "wall of sin" standing between God and us through His death on the cross. Jesus bore the punishment for our sins on His body that should have been imposed on us. Let me finish this sermon with these verses:

2 Corinthians

5:21 "God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that God's righteousness would be produced in us."

1 Timothy

2:5 "There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and human beings—a human, the Messiah Jesus."

It is so written in the first epistle to Timothy.

End