

# Jesus Won the Better Victory

At the cross, Jesus won the ultimate victory over the devil and death. He now freely extends His victory to those who battle temptation and fear.

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

## RECAP

**Baby Dedication:** Wyatt Justin Allen / Morgan

[Psa 139:13-18 NKJV] **13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And [that] my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, [And] skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When [as yet there were] none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 [If] I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.**

Announce: women's conference went well.

So, let's quickly review. I hope that by the time we finish our study, you will have a great list of the ways Jesus is better as well as all the things He is better than.

1.) Jesus has the **better voice** – God in times past unfolded His message to humanity through the prophets, but now has given the fullness of His revelation in the person of Jesus Christ.

2.) Jesus has the **better name** – God did not give Jesus the name, “created or angelic being.” He is named, “Son of God.” This name carries a positive divine attribute. His title indicates that his authority extends far above and beyond every other power.

3.) Jesus is the **better man** – Though Jesus, by nature, is higher than the angels, for a season he willingly clothed himself in humanity, becoming a little lower than the angels. In doing so, he fulfilled in His human flesh the divine requirements of His righteous Father on our behalf. He did what a man had to do to reverse the curse, but what no other man could have done other than him.

**4.) Jesus has won the better victory** – Today, we see that Jesus, as a man, has won a victory that we could have never won on our own. I would sum up today's passage with this statement:

#### QUOTE

*At the cross, Jesus won the ultimate victory over the devil and death. He now freely extends that victory to those who battle fear and temptation.*

Josh, Big Idea

#### BIBLE VERSE

**Heb 2:14-18 NKJV – 14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. **16** For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. **17** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

#### PRAY

Jesus wins the better victory in four ways:

1. **Jesus Defeated the Devil**
2. **Jesus Delivers the Fearful**
3. **Jesus Distributes Mercy**

## 4. Jesus Defuses Temptation

# 1

## Jesus Defeated the Devil

### BIBLE VERSE

**Heb 2:14-18 NKJV – 14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

### THOUGHT PROCESS: THE DEATH OF JESUS DESTROYED THE POWER SATAN HAD OVER DEATH

*The wages of sin = death*

*The originator of sin = devil*

*The Devil had the power of death = as long as human beings, who are subject to flesh and blood, continue to die, Satan continues to have the final say over humanity. This is why Jesus had to partake of a body, subject himself to death, and be the only flesh and blood human being to conquer death and live forever.*

The inventor technically holds the power over what his invention creates. In the garden of Eden, Satan showed himself to be the greatest liar. Of Satan, Jesus said, ***“(John 8:44) He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”***

How did Satan murder from the beginning? By planting and cultivating a lie into the heart of Eve. When that lie was embraced, it brought forth sin. When sin was manifested, it brought forth death, and death reigned from Adam to Christ.

- Before Christ, no person could escape the consequences of Satan’s lie and power. **By nature, humankind became subject to Satan as slaves because no person had any true power over sin.**

*Satan's power came through his ability to keep all people in bondage to sin and its ultimate effect, death.*

## QUOTE

*I think death is the devil's masterpiece. With the solitary exception of hell, death is certainly the most Satanic mischief that sin hath accomplished.*

Spurgeon, Sermon

## APPLICATION

But there was one person who he could never get to sin even though he really tried (The wilderness temptations)... Jesus. Jesus never sinned, yet he died. The only person who ever died that didn't actually deserve it. He died as a willing sacrifice FOR SIN, not as a result of HIS SIN.

- Jesus, by coming under the power of death without coming under the power of sin was not subject to Satan's bondage. Then, by overcoming the power of death through resurrection, He made death for those who trust in Him, not their final destination, but merely a pathway into eternal life as God intended it to be.
- The reality, therefore, removes the power of death from Satan, and gives the victory over death to Jesus!

**[Isa 25:8 NKJV] 8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.**

Jesus conquered death by death, suffering through suffering, and temptation through being Himself, tempted.

## BIBLE VERSE

**1Jo 3:8b NKJV – 8b ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

**CONTINUED**

We are told that Jesus destroyed Satan's power over death through His own righteous death.

**Destroyed – not to utterly destroy but to render ineffective.** To deprive of force, influence, power

Satan will never die. He will spend eternity suffering the just punishment for His wickedness. But the power he held onto through sin has now been rendered ineffective toward those who have, by faith, entered into the victory of Jesus' Resurrection.

**QUOTE**

*Satan is still an active enemy, but more importantly, he is a defeated enemy whose remaining ammunition is ineffective against the spiritual armor of his rival, the Christian.*

*Say it with me... "I am more than a conqueror through Him Who loved me and gave Himself for me!"*

Josh, Quote

**BIBLE VERSE**

**Col 2:15 NKJV – 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

**APPLICATION**

As the Christian clothes him or herself with Christ, and are diligent in wearing the armor of God, nothing that Satan employs against that person can effectively succeed. The enemy might have an occasional victory by tempting us to obey our flesh, but He will never have the ultimate victory because Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

- Now I think we need to respect the reality of Satan's cunning. He is a powerful and crafty adversary. Peter tells us to.. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks

about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- But at the same time, let’s not give him more credit than he deserves! Satan is powerful, but Jesus is more powerful. Satan is crafty, Jesus is wiser. Satan’s the loser, Jesus is the winner.
- We don’t need to be afraid of the enemy, and neither do we need to be afraid of his henchman, death.

## 2

## Jesus Delivers the Fearful

### BIBLE VERSE

**15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.**

### JOKE

*Did you hear about the man suffering from severe headaches? He tried Aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin – Extra Strength – nothing worked. Finally, he went to the doc. The doctor did a brain scan and X-rays. A couple of days later, the man went back in for the results. The doctor announced, “I’ve got awful news. Your condition is terminal.” The patient was shook up, “Doc, say it ain’t so!” “No, I’m afraid the results are conclusive. There’s no doubt.” The man asked, “How much time do I have left?” The doctor answered, “10...” The patient wanted to know, “10 what? 10 years? 10 months? 10 days?” The doctor continued, “9, 8, 7, 6...”*

### APPLICATION

It’s been said, “Death is the great spoiler.”

- Birth is an incredibly joyous event, but we hate to think of the reality that one day it won’t be a crib, but a coffin that the body will be laid in.
- Marriage is a happy day, but no one wants to remember that, “till death do us part” means that one day someone’s loneliness is inevitable due to separation by death.
- Whenever a loved one goes on a long trip to some remote part of the world, there’s a little apprehension in the back of our mind. Why? Because we know that there are things out there that might prove threatening to their life.

For humans, the reality of death produces fear and self-preservation. *The apostle tells us that fear of death is what keeps humans in bondage from experiencing the fullness of life that God desires for them.*

Jesus gave His life not only to take the power of death from the devil but to take the fear of death from the Christian. Realizing that death isn't the end but the doorway to the beginning allows the Christian to live life for God freely. We might still be afraid of the process of dying, but death itself is no longer anything to fear.

#### QUOTE

*Death no longer means the cessation of life... Death no longer robs us of what matters... It separates us for a time, but not forever. In Christ, death is no longer a punishment for sin. It's a graduation to greater blessing, higher glory, a deeper awareness of God's presence.*

, Quote

#### BIBLE VERSE

Rom 5:17 NKJV – 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

#### ILLUSTRATION

*The picture here is that of a hero warrior coming to liberate those imprisoned. The prison cell is the fear of death, and the guard of the cell is none other than the Devil's henchman, death itself. The warden of the prison is Satan who oversees the imprisonment of all humanity. All of the sudden another person shows up in prison, but no matter how hard Satan tries, he can't seem to get this guy into a cell. He attempts to trick and tempt him, trying to chain him up to no avail. Finally, the new person walks into a cell and chains himself up. For three days that warden is happy until that man burst out of the cell with the key to the entire prison, now going from cell to cell releasing all of the prisoners from fear and death. Satan does all*

*he can to try and convince them that the cell they left is really a better, safer home, but no matter how he tries to lie, trick, and deceive, the prisoners that are now following their savior and hero are no longer subject to or phased by his lies.*

## BIBLE VERSE

**Isaiah 42:13 – The LORD will march forth like a mighty hero; He will come out like a warrior, full of fury. He will shout his battle cry and crush all his enemies.**

## ILLUSTRATION

This season of COVID has done many things, but it has also really exposed the truth of this verse... people are afraid, and their number one fear is dying.

- Hey, life is precious, and we should use all wisdom to preserve and protect it, but the Christian should never make a decision regarding their life out of fear of death. Our decisions must be made out of faith in the power of Christ. Yes, this will seem insane to most of the unbelieving world, but for those who know Christ, it's the most sensible thing to do.
- You can't open a news source without seeing COVID dominating the headlines... "The new variant is going to destroy us all!"
  - It might... it's quite possible that something far worse than covid might show up next week and threaten us all. I hate to sound cavalier because I know how serious this disease can be, but that's part of life in a fallen world. We can do what we can in our scientific and medical pursuits, but death and disease are here and aren't going anywhere until Jesus returns.
  - But what a wonderful opportunity for the Christian to show the world a better way... that instead of retreating in fear, we stand bold and confident in our risen savior. We will continue to share his love, continue to meet needs, continue to worship, and continue to share the gospel... for "to live is Christ, and to die is gain..."

## PREACH

**Jesus came to set the captives free!**



- **Some of you are sitting in cells that Jesus already opened afraid of guards that Jesus already destroyed!**
- **Walk out. Satan has convinced you that it's so impossible and you'll never change and there's no hope for you. Guess what, I have something incredible to tell you... IT'S ALL A SMOKESCREEN, A LIE THAT HAS NO POWER BEHIND IT!**
- **You will overcome that addiction because Jesus overcame. You will overcome that fear because Jesus overcame. You will overcome that challenging obstacle because Jesus overcame. Your marriage is not destined for failure because Jesus overcame. Your life isn't worthless because Jesus overcame. You will grow in maturity and effectiveness beyond where you currently are, because Jesus overcame!**

#### BIBLE VERSE

**Isa 61:1 NKJV – 1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

## 3

## Jesus Distributes Mercy

#### BIBLE VERSE

**17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

#### CONTEXT

Here we deal with the two P's of Jesus' death:

- **Priesthood and Propitiation**

I'm not going to expand these subjects in-depth today, because the concepts return later and become a point of the main focus in the following chapters.

Basically, we see this:

- Under the Old Covenant, the ministry of the priest existed so that there could be intercession made on behalf of sinful people and a Holy God.
- The priest would offer sacrifices, pray for the people, and once a year, the high priest would enter into the holy of holies, to the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant and apply the blood of a lamb as a sacrificial atonement for the sins of both himself and God's people.
- On one end, the priest had to be faithful to God in upholding his truth and righteous standards, but on the other end, he had to empathize with the weakness and frailty of man. However, no human priest could ever perfectly represent God to the people, because they themselves were sinners.

This is why Jesus is described as the merciful and faithful high priest.

- As a man, he could empathize with people and show them mercy. As perfect and divine He could be faithful to fulfill the righteous requirements of God without ever sinning, which automatically separated him from every other human high priest who himself was a sinner.

## APPLICATION

A man could be merciful to man but would fall short of being faithful to God.

An angel might be faithful to God but would fall short in understanding the suffering of man and showing mercy.

Only Jesus could be merciful to man as a man and faithful to God as God.

## ILLUSTRATION

The only way to truly empathize with another is to go what they go through.

Many of us learn empathy unwillingly. That is, we don't volunteer to suffer like another person suffers. When we do suffer, we gain empathy for those who suffer.

- **Who wants to lose all their money so Joe knows that he's not alone? Me, me!**
- **Hey you might volunteer to shave your head in solidarity for the friend or loved one that has cancer, and that's great and praiseworthy... but would you take cancer just so that**

**they would know that you know what they are going through? Someone might... but would you do it for your worst enemy? Jesus did.**

But Jesus volunteered! He willingly took on the pain of human suffering and the weakness of human flesh for the express purpose of being able to fully understand our struggle.

## DEFINITION

**Propitiation – the method of pardoning and blessing sinners that is consistent with God’s character and government. Pardoning sinners without compromising holiness and justice.**

In order to restore peace with mankind, God had to have a way to pardon sinners without compromising His holiness or neglecting His perfect law and without overstepping His rightful justice.

Jesus came, to make **propitiation for the sins of the people...** The word “propitiation” means “a place of mercy.” The equivalent Hebrew word is “kipporeth” or “**mercy-seat.**” [image]

- The mercy seat was the gold lid that covered the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple’s innermost sanctum. Over this mercy seat, the glory of God rested. This was where the priest applied the blood and atoned for sin.
- God’s truth and mercy kissed and were reconciled at the mercy seat. In this one place, at one time, God’s righteousness was satisfied. His compassion realized. And today Jesus is our (propitiation) mercy seat. He is the one place in the world where sinful men can find mercy from a righteous God because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

## BIBLE VERSE

**Heb 4:16 NKJV – 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

# 4

## Jesus Defuses Temptation

## BIBLE VERSE

## **18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.**

### **CONTEXT**

One of the many benefits of Jesus being our propitiation is that he can help us overcome the temptations that we face.

- Jesus knows what it's like to be hounded by the devil. He was in the wilderness 40 days being personally tempted by Satan!
- And some might say, "Yeah, but Jesus couldn't sin!" You're right, and aren't you glad! He can understand what you're going through and at the very same time offer you the hope of true victory; the same victory that He had?

### **DEFINITION**

**Tempted – to solicit one to sin. To maliciously test someone.**

Satan is out to sell you a lie, to get you to buy into the forbidden fruit. AS we saw in the Garden of Eden, he's not a bad salesman. But his sales pitch is no match for the cross of Christ. When Satan sees the cross of Christ, he sees the sign that reads:

**"Solicitors will be prosecuted!"**

No, he ignores the sign, but Jesus isn't ignoring him. He's going to get what's coming to him in the end.

### **THE ENEMY OF OUR FLESH**

Notice something important: Jesus destroyed the work of the devil, eradicated the fear of death, but he aids (helps, assists) those who are tempted. Jesus didn't destroy temptation, nor did he do away with our flesh (**That day is coming in the future**). **Right now, we must experience victory through dependence upon Christ and His help.**

For the believer, the devil is not our most dangerous enemy, our flesh is. The devil can tempt us, but the power is not in temptation, but in the evil desires of our flesh.

**BIBLE VERSE**

**Jas 1:14-15 NKJV – 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

**APPLICATION**

Where is the devil in that verse? He's not there. We are fully capable of being our own worst enemy.

- There are things that you can blame on Satan. When you are hearing lies, that might be Satan. When you are faced with temptation, that might be Satan. When you are experiencing trials, there's a chance that Satan might be involved.
- But when you sin, that's not Satan, that's you. When you're disobedient, that wasn't Satan, that was you.
- "Satan made me do it" doesn't cut it for the Christian.

But here's the encouraging part in it. When you face temptation, you're not alone. The victor is with you and wants to help you.

**BIBLE VERSE**

**1Co 10:13 NKJV – 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

**QUOTE**

*Whatever Satan tempts me into, Jesus can lead me out of.*

Josh, Quote

**APPLICATION**

Your temper... no match for Jesus.

Your lust... no match for Jesus.

Your selfishness... no match for Jesus.

Your pride... no match for Jesus.

## WHY

Then why is the temptation so strong? Why can't I ever seem to say no? Why am I always falling into the same trap?

Because your mind, your way of thinking needs to be transformed.

- **Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. - Romans 12**
- **Isa 26:3 NKJV – 3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.**
- **Psa 1:1-3 NKJV – 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**

People run into trouble when faced with temptation because they are telling themselves that the temptation is stronger than Jesus.

- Fill your mind with truth. Believe in your mind that Jesus' victory is real!

## CONCLUSION

A powerful set of verses:

Jesus defeated Satan, delivers the fearful, delivers mercy, and defuses temptation. And all this is yours and mine by faith.

## QUOTE

*These are truths with which our ears are very familiar; but if our minds but distinctly apprehended their meaning and their evidence, they would fill us with adoring wonder and gratitude.*

John Brown, Commentary on Hebrews