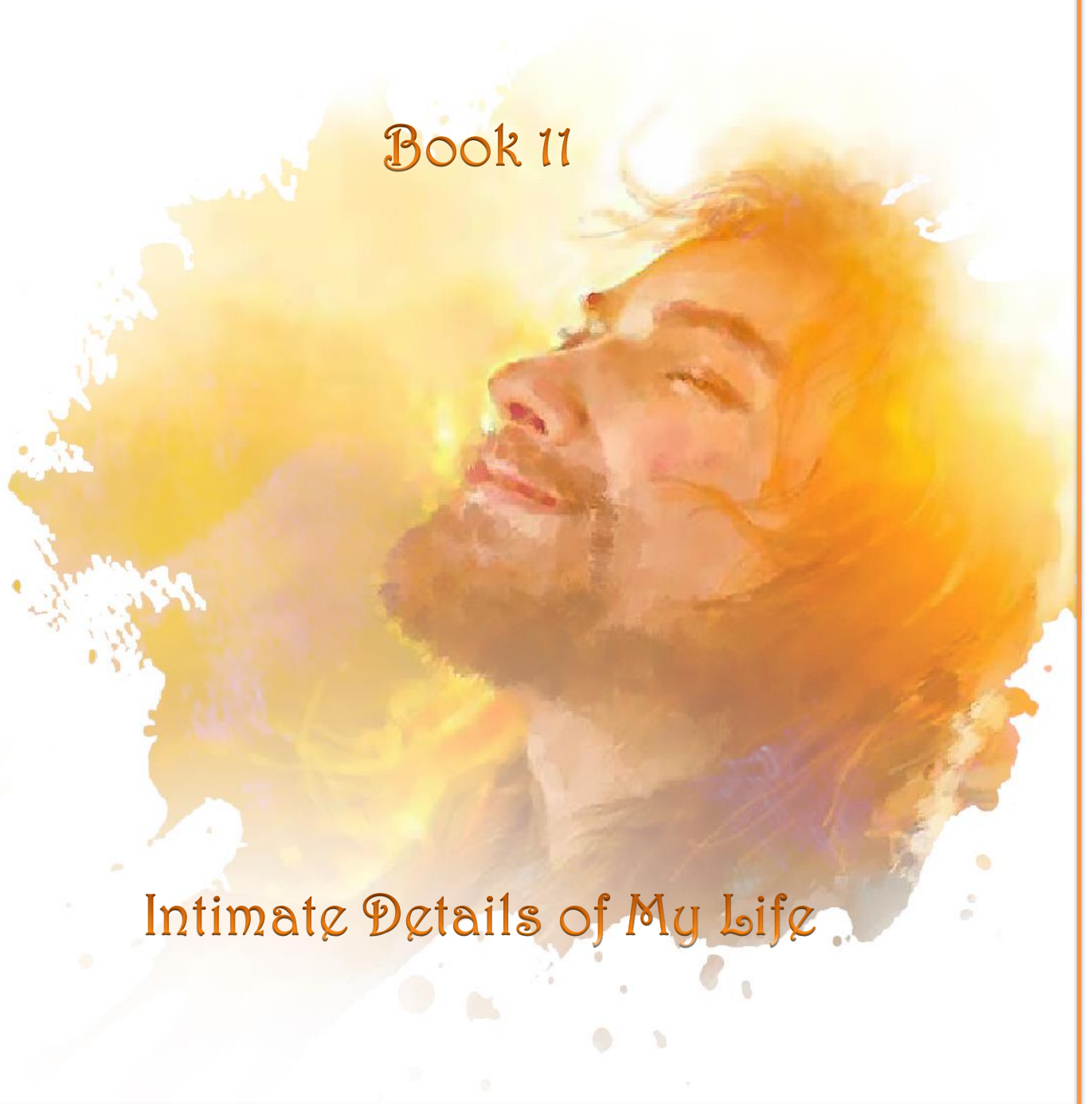


Prophecies for the Children of David

Book 11

Intimate Details of My Life

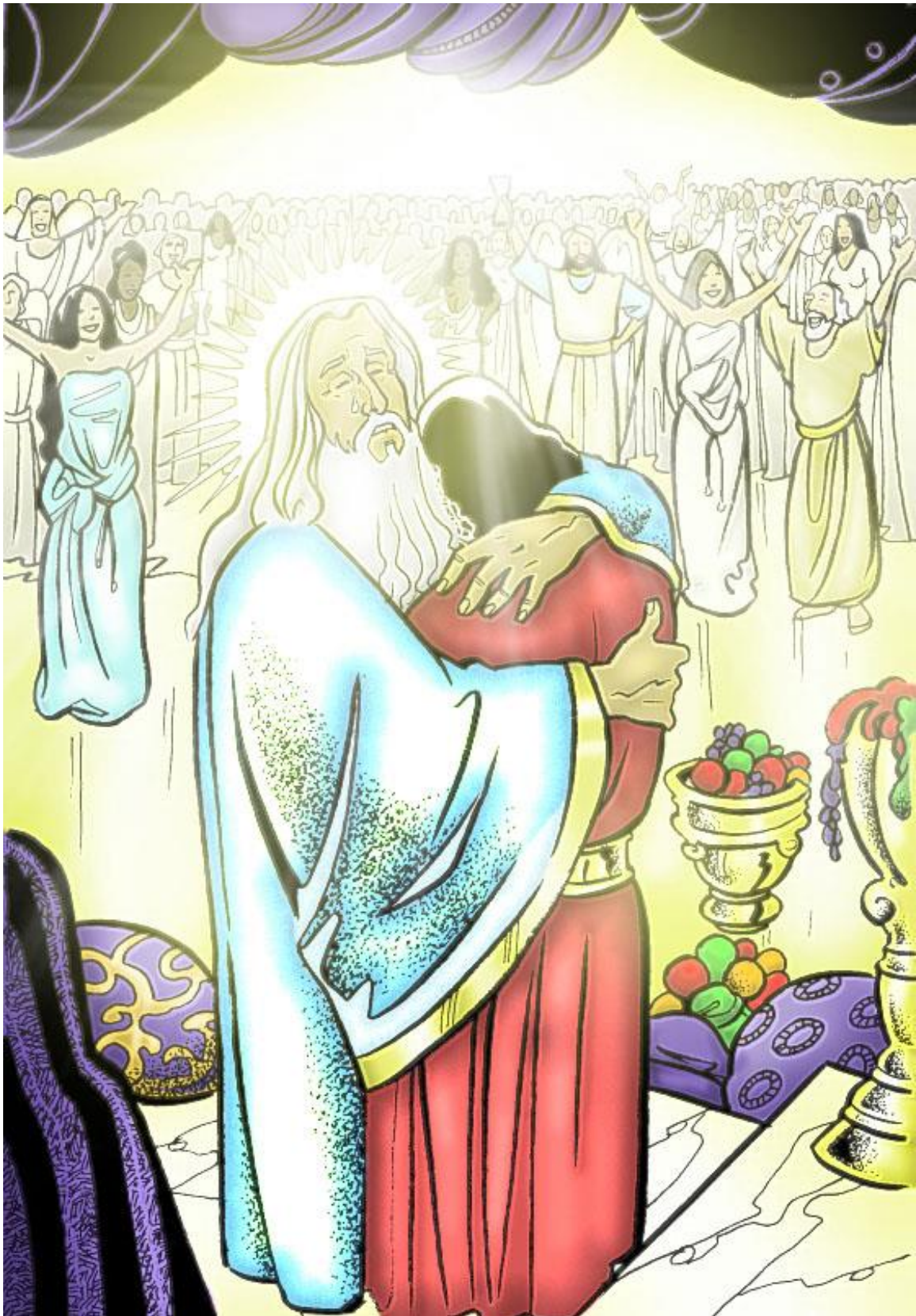


INDEX OF “PROPHECIES FOR THE CHILDREN OF DAVID” – Book 11

BOOKLET	PAGE NUMBER
DETAILS OF MY LIFE ~ PART 1	3
DETAILS OF MY LIFE ~ PART 2	13
DETAILS OF MY LIFE ~ PART 3	23
DETAILS OF MY LIFE ~ PART 4	28
DETAILS OF MY LIFE ~ PART 5	37

INTIMATE DETAILS OF MY LIFE

Book 11, Compilation #01 of TCOD pubs on the subject, by theaudiokey.com team - November 2021 (All prophecies are Jesus speaking)



Why don't you come over here where I can hold you close, and let Me share some more intimate details of My life with you? I love talking to you like this, in the intimacy and privacy of this special cozy place, snuggled up in each other's arms.

While I was there on Earth, faithful scribes recorded some of My Words and significant portions of My testimony. But because you're more to Me than a disciple and more to Me than a friend, because you're My intimate Bride, I know you long for Me to tell you more in-depth details about My life. And I enjoy telling you. I love to share My life with you like this. ⁽¹⁾

I Leave Heaven to be a Missionary to Earth

... What a monumental day that was when My Father called Me to His side to reconfirm My great commission! I knew I was destined since the beginning to fulfill this mission. And I knew that as We were about to discuss the details, it was going to be of great significance. I was about to be faced with the opportunity to fulfill My crowning achievement of all time. I knew that in the decision that lay before Me, I held the awesome power to change the course of world history.

So My Father and I walked. We walked and We talked as the refreshing soft breeze of Heaven's gardens sang sweet tunes of melodic praises in Our honor. It was a sobering time as We looked down from the Heavens and observed the children of men and the state of the Earth under man's own rule.

Prior to this time, I had watched and observed the ways of man and the consequences he faced in making his own wrong choices. Since the beginning of time, I was very intricately involved and active in the affairs of mankind, yet I knew that unless I became flesh and dwelt among you, as one of you, I would not be able to fully understand human ways and be fully touched with the feelings of your infirmities. In order to feel as you do, to be tested in all points as you are, I had to become one with you--to take on the form of human flesh in order to become a better high priest--your mediator.

I looked on man's ways with disappointment. For if man, as a whole, had made better choices, they would have not reaped the oftentimes binding, restrictive and hurtful results. Yet they so often chose a path contrary to the ways of Heaven. As My Father and I walked, We looked and considered all that We had created, and the cries of mankind rose up in Our ears. Heartbroken for the state of the world, We counseled together, for We knew the hour had come that was ordained since the beginning of time--and now We would need to take action to remedy the situation.

It was then that My Father and I went over the plan that was ordained from the foundation of the Earth, for We both knew this day would come because of man's own choices, when there would be a dire need--and the salvation of mankind would be at stake. Yet once again, My Father presented Me with the choice and a decision that I alone could make. If you, My loves, were to be salvaged from Satan's clutches, if you, for whom We created all the Heavens and all the Earth and whom We love so completely, were to make your way Home again, action needed to be taken.

"What must I do, Father?" I asked. "Am I to become a missionary to Earth that salvation may be given to all mankind?"

"Yes, My son, precisely. For You alone, as My only begotten Son, hold the key to redemption in Your hand."

In that moment the thoughts raced through My head, just to think of all that this would entail. Leave the halls of Heaven for a time to venture out on a long journey? Leave the halls of Heaven to become a missionary to Earth and the Savior of mankind? Leave the halls of Heaven to bear the burdens of all the world on My shoulders, to right the wrongs and break the bands of wickedness that threatened your souls? Leave the halls of Heaven to overcome the world and set you free? Leave the halls of Heaven and undergo physical death that you, My loves, might be set free from death forever? Leave the halls of Heaven to win you back, that you might return to My everlasting arms? ⁽²⁾

I felt a mix of emotions. On the one hand I was excited with the thrill of a great commission. I was raring to go! I was bursting at the seams to tell the good news, to turn things around, to turn things right-side up on My mission field of the Earth. And yet in many ways I was scared of falling, and of failing. I too struggled and found it difficult to leave the warmth and security of Heaven. I too was tempted to say no, and for a while I almost didn't want to let go. I didn't want to leave Heaven--the task seemed too great! The thought of leaving all the splendor and all the glory of Heaven was almost more than I could comprehend or accept at first. But I obeyed, I went, and I soon found that the love I had within--the love of Heaven--was love enough to sustain Me. ⁽³⁾

The task would not be easy, for in order to accomplish it, I would have to take on the cloak of human flesh. I would have to become flesh and dwell among you, become one with you in every way--to live as you live, to feel as you feel, to know joy as you know joy, to laugh as you laugh, to cry as you cry, to suffer pain as you suffer pain. I would have to take on every one of your burdens--your pain, all your suffering--on My Own frail human shoulders. I would have to die the death of a sinner so that you might rise and live forever.

Looking deep into My Father's eyes and He into Mine, there was no need for further words. Every thought and every intent of My heart was made clear. Neither of Us questioned as We stood in the grace and glory and majesty of Heaven, Our hearts yearning to have all of you, Our precious children, safely Home again. We knew what sacrifice would need to be made. And so unfolded the

greatest love story the universe will ever know. For there is no greater love than this--the Father giving His only begotten Son that you might live. And so I prepared for My missionary journey.

It was amid the cheers and jubilant praises of My Heavenly sendoff, in those last parting moments before My arrival on Earth, that My Father embraced Me in His arms as never before--and We wept. So great a sacrifice was unprecedented in all time, yet We could not change Our minds.

Our love for you was pure and steadfast, constant and unchanging, and We had no regrets. Nevertheless, the tears flowed from Our eyes, for the thought of parting was indeed a great forsaking. This remains even now a mystery to you, dear ones, for it will not be until you arrive Home to Heaven that you will be able to completely understand the full depth of this great, great forsaking--what is referred to in Heaven as the "ultimate forsaking," that you might live.

The tears flowed between Us in that difficult moment when it came time for My Father and Me to part. Though inseparable in all Our ways, for a time I would be the Son of Man as well as the Son of God. Yet We knew deep in Our hearts that there could be no price too big to pay in order to save you, Our dear loves. So what seemed bitter tears of forsaking turned to tears of joy, for We knew it would be worth it all--all Our life, all Our love, all Heaven has to offer--to redeem you. Having you by Our sides once again was well worth all We had to give in order to recapture you from Satan's grip.

For Me, the very thought of leaving the splendor of Heaven and all My glorious surroundings was not nearly as daunting as the thought of leaving My Father's side, for I had always known His direct presence. Although I knew He would always be with Me as I set out on My earthly mission, I also knew that as I took on the cloak of human flesh, I would be venturing out to know Him in a way I had not known Him before. Yes, I, your High Priest, stood in those moments on the brink of the unknown in a sense, for it was not until I became a man and walked in human flesh that I was able to be fully touched with the feelings of your infirmities.

It was in becoming one with you, as a human, that I was able to feel as you feel, to experience as you experience, and this was to enable Me to be your High Priest. I had to pass the same tests you must pass. I had to be tempted in all things as you are tempted, and nothing was to escape Me nor slip by Me. I knew that I would learn obedience through this experience as a man and through the things I was to suffer as I took on My earthly commission. I knew that as I became one with you in every way, I would never be the same.

I'm telling you this now, My loves--how I took on the cloak of human flesh, how I am touched with your feelings, how I was tested as you are tested--that this one thought might encourage your hearts. As you enter the great days ahead, let this spark your faith. Think on these things, My loves, and know that if I was tempted in all points as you are tempted, and if I could make it, you can make it too. I held on to Heaven and Heaven held on to Me--just as Heaven will hold on to you, as you call on Me. Though the dark days are falling, Heaven will bring you through to victory time and time again.

Let this thought encourage your hearts, and remember that in flesh I was no different than you. I had to make the same choices. I was faced with the same tests. I had to experience the same battles and trials. This was My great testing: to become a man, to take on human flesh and all its frailties and weaknesses, so that you could live forever. Think about this, and let it spur you on in the days to come, that just as I resisted the wiles of Satan, so can you, through My Word and the eternal victory which I have already given you!

I was the Son of God, encased in frail human flesh. I took on your form so that I might better understand you. And in order to understand you fully, I had to make Myself subject to the same weaknesses you battle. I had to know what it was like to endure, to fight, to withstand, to resist temptation, to feel weary. In order to fully understand you, I had to experience these things.

And yet I came with another mission as well--not only one of understanding you, but helping you to understand Me and My love, and My Father's love. To do that, I had to retain My knowledge of Heaven, My knowledge of My mission on Earth, and the connection with My Father, in order to pass those things on to you and be a sample of the love that we have for each of you. But I had to fight to keep the vision just as you have to fight to keep the vision.

When I say that I was no different from you, I mean that at any time I could have chosen to stop what I was doing, to quit the mission of love that I was on. I could have said that it was too difficult, that I was too weary, that I was not received as I should have been. It's much the same with you.

You have more of My Word and My promises than any other people who have ever lived. You have more knowledge of Heaven and My will and My ways and My plan than anyone else who has ever walked this Earth, save Me. I have put within you the knowledge of these things, and continue to feed you the New Wine of Heaven so that you might have the strength, as I had the strength, to complete your mission. But, like it was for Me, it is your choice. My Father could not do it for Me. Each day I had to decide anew. I had to rise early when I was tired in order to go out and commune with My Father and receive strength for the day. So it is with you. The same communication with Heaven is available to you, My precious ones.

Just as I retained the knowledge of Heaven and of My mission on Earth, even so have I given you a clear knowledge of My plan for you, and your mission to bring others to Me, through laying down your life in love. Even as My Father was proud of Me, so am I proud of you, My precious ones. I love you, and believe Me when I say that I understand. I too was tested and tempted, and I too felt weary and tired. But My Father gave Me strength to hang on, just as I give you strength, as you look to Me. It won't be long now, My precious loves, before you are joined with Me in Heaven, never again to have to experience the severe testing's of Earth. I love you.

I'm sharing these details with you of how I forsook all and came down from Heaven because I want you to know the great,

immense love that drives Me to you. I want you to know that though My forsaking was so great, I have no regrets. I want you to know, My dear ones, how greatly I anticipate the day when we will be reunited in our Heavenly Home. I tell you this at this time so that you might keep your eyes on Heaven and let this be the driving force in your lives in the days ahead. For this truly was My key to victory--I had to keep My eyes on Heaven. I had to set My face like a flint and live with the vision of Heaven ever before Me, and this pulled Me through.

Therefore look up, dear ones, for the time is near when we will be reunited in our Heavenly Home! And oh, what a day that will be! How My love for you thrives! Therefore, draw on this love so that it may carry you through the days ahead, even as I, when I walked on the Earth, also learned to draw on My Father's love and it carried Me through. It carried Me back Home to Heaven. My love will do the same for you, as you depend on Me to carry you through. ⁽⁴⁾

Humble beginnings

Why did I have to come to Earth? Why was I born? Was it just to do miracles? Was it just to show that My Father loves you? Those were some of the reasons, but it was also for My sake, so that I could feel what you experience and what it means to be human, and so that when I say "I know how you feel," you will believe Me. ⁽⁵⁾

My ministry on Earth from your point of view now looks glorious, for you can see all the good fruit that it bore and how I changed the world. But if you were to see things the way they were during My time, you would get a much different perspective. I had to learn to be a servant. I had to learn to do My Father's will--both My earthly father's as well as My Heavenly Father's. I had to endure and suffer the afflictions and emotions of the flesh so that I could truly understand and relate to each person. I had to forsake My heavenly powers to become human and to endure many, many battles, for this was all a part of My training (Philippians 2:5-8; Isaiah 53:3-9; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Like you, I wanted to do great things, to start healing the sick and delivering the good news of salvation. But I had many lessons to learn first, so I submitted and became a servant, a carpenter, a nobody in the eyes of men. To go from being the King of the Universe to being a lowly carpenter was a pretty big change! But it was all for a purpose, for I had to learn what it was like to be human and to not rely on My Own strength, but to find My strength in coming to My Father.

There were many lessons that I had to learn that are cornerstones in your lives today. But if I had not gone through those things, I would not have been able to relate to and instruct you in the way I can now. But I can now truly say I understand, for I have been there Myself. So learn to trust Me and to believe that whatever I bring into your life is for your good and will strengthen you. ⁽⁶⁾

When I came to Earth I gave up the riches of Heaven and joined myself to a poor family of a simple carpenter and his wife. My Father could have chosen any family in the world for Me to grow up with, but He did not choose one that had riches or that had a beautiful house. Rather, He chose one that was poor, that struggled for food, that sometimes had to do without when business was poor. He placed Me there so that I could understand, so that I could become one. ⁽⁷⁾

We weren't rich when I was growing up, and I helped with the carpentry business. I got quite good in time, and My skills were often sought after. But everything took so much time in those days, since we had to cut the trees and saw them into planks, and the money and time never seemed to come as quickly as the work or needs of the rest of My family. So I would have to take time with My Father to cope with the pressures.

Later in life I went out early in the mornings to be alone, but I couldn't always just slip away in My younger years. So I would drop this small curtain that I had gotten for this express purpose that would surround the wood shavings pile. I would sink Myself into that pile and I would think of My Father and remember His happiest face. I would look deep into His eyes, and find so much peace and understanding. Then I would get up refreshed, having given My cares to Him, and get back to work feeling understood, knowing that I had a very large pair of shoulders carrying My weights and worries. ⁽⁸⁾

I came in swaddling clothes. And then in My public ministry many years later, I entered not as one who was brought up in a king's house, as the crown prince who had been groomed for power and responsibility, but rather as a humble hewer of wood. That was My "clothing," so to speak, so that when people saw Me, they didn't see the great crown prince that I was; no, what they saw was a carpenter's son, simple as that, so that I was easy to approach and ask for help.

They loved to laugh with Me and joke with Me, to drink with Me and to play with Me. I was one of them. I wasn't above them in spirit in how I related to them. I was very relatable.



Yes, I had to forsake all in order to enter the body of that little baby. I literally had to forsake all--except what I was, My very Own Spirit. But all else I laid aside so that I could become one of you. That's how much I loved you--enough to leave My Own thoughts aside, My Own Wisdom. Everything that I had garnered about Me for eternity I took off, I laid aside, and I took on your robes, your human flesh.

I was not even born in a room, let alone a household or a grand mansion. There wasn't even room for Me in the house; they had to stick Me out back in a barn with the animals. That's how humble and how lowly My entry to your world was. It couldn't have gotten any humbler. And why? Because I had to relate to you and to all of mankind with humility and lowliness, as servant of all.

I had never done that before. I had never gone to Earth in that capacity before, not for the real thing. Yes, I had made some visits, but in a way those were trial runs assisted by My angels and others. But this was the real thing. I was going it alone this time without even My previous thoughts and knowledge, and this would be a great test of My faith while in human flesh. Would I be able to make it?

I forsook all My thoughts, all My heavenly wisdom, all that made up what I was, and entered the house of My fleshly body as a human being, bound in the limitations, pains, and sufferings of not only the flesh but of the emotions and spiritual warfare that it brings on, and it was a great test. Would I stay true and faithful to My Father and make it?

The only thing I really knew was that My Father could make it through Me if I called out to Him and depended on Him. It was all by faith--faith in My Father that He would come through. Just as it's all by faith for you now--faith in Me that I will come through for you. And I will. My Father gave His best shot for mankind, and that was Me; He trusted that I would not lose faith and that I would come through and win in the end.

Well, you know the story. I managed to stay faithful unto death and I won the prize in the end--and the prize was you, My loves. I won you back to My side, and I opened the gates of Heaven for all eternity to all who will take it. I defeated Lucifer.

Before I entered that great courtroom of the trials on Earth, I was in great trepidation as to how I would do. But once there, and once I got My footing and the time was right, My Father's Spirit came down upon Me, and I followed and obeyed.

It will be the same with you. For My Spirit to come down upon you, you must be very, very low. You must have no confidence in yourself. When you walk with this mindset, knowing that you are nothing, then what that means is that you have made room for Me, and at the appointed time I will enter and I will lead.⁽⁹⁾

Was I born in a palace? No, I was born in a stable. Was I a flaming prophet from childhood? No, I took up the humble trade of a carpenter for years and years. Did the world rally to support Me when I began My ministry? No, I was despised and rejected, classed with the harlots and the drunks. Did I have a ministry that reached millions? No, mostly I had the humble ministry of teaching and training My twelve, and feeding the Words I received from God to whoever around Me would listen.

I did have a public ministry at times, when people flocked to Me because they were curious to see miracles or to get a free lunch, after they heard about My miracle of the loaves and the fishes. However, there were many times when My ministry was the quiet ministry of a teacher, just ministering to those who needed to hear My Words and training My disciples to carry on after I was gone. All the popularity was fleeting, and what lasted was the Word that I had sown. It was the teaching and the ministering that ended up bearing fruit in the lives of My disciples and that caused them to change the world and reach millions with My truth.- Humble beginnings, greater ends.

You see, My Father had a marvelous plan for Me, as I have for you. Through My life and ministry, humble, simple, and short-lived as it seemed, God has worked in countless millions of lives through the centuries. He has been glorified, and many have been drawn to Him, because I was willing to be despised and rejected of men. I simply obeyed what God told Me to do, despite the fact that the educated men of My day looked down on My methods. Many wanted to crown Me king and wanted Me to deliver them from the bondage of the Romans, but it was not to be. They wanted to become a great, powerful, rich nation, with Me ruling over them, but God had a greater vision and plan.⁽¹⁰⁾

I didn't have wisdom from the time I was born. I had to learn wisdom through the things that I went through (Luke 2:52). I wasn't all-knowing or perfect. If I had been, I never would have understood what it's like for you to learn, to discern, to mature, to be tested. I had the wisdom of My Father that I could tap into, but so do you. The knowledge of everything I knew in Heaven, however, was veiled; otherwise, My time on Earth would not have been a true test.

And, yes, I did learn things on Earth that I didn't know in Heaven. Before I came to Earth, I didn't know what it was like to live as you do. I didn't know what it felt like to go through the things you do, to make the decisions you do. If I had known everything before coming to Earth, then there wouldn't have been much of a reason for Me to live out 33 years. I did that so that I could learn what it was like to be a human. If that hadn't been an important part of My mission, I could have appeared on Earth at the age of 30, lived a couple of years, and then died for your sins. Obviously there was more to My life than that--more that I had to learn and experience. That's why I spent all those years on Earth.

While I was on Earth, I had to know what it was like to be like you--to not have all the answers right off, but to have to pray and get answers and wisdom from Heaven. I wasn't meant to go to Earth with all the knowledge of Heaven, knowing everything, so that I could answer all the questions people had and solve all the problems of the world on My Own. That was not the point at all. I

was working with My Father, just as you work with Me today.

I had to tap into His power, the power of the spirit world. I couldn't do it on My Own. I didn't have all of the wisdom of Heaven within Me, just as you don't today. I had to tap into it, I had to ask for it, I had to suck for it, I had to be yielded to receive it, just as you have to do the same today.

It's hard to put some of these concepts into earthly words. Yes, I came and lived as a man--but that was as much for your sake as for Mine. The main reason I had to come was so that you could know Me as a man of flesh, you could know that I went through everything you'll go through, to some extent, and thus you can have faith that I understand you. It's not as if in coming to Earth I relinquished all My heavenly rights as the Son of God. I chose to have some things put behind a partition; you might say, in My Spirit, so that I could experience things more in the way that you experience them--without a full knowledge or understanding of past, present, and future. That way I gained deeper understanding for you.

But I always had unconditional love. That's why I came to Earth in the first place. And I always had the knowledge and understanding that I was there, as God among men, to help you, to save you, to show you My love. I am and always have been your God, your Savior, and deeply in love with you. I know everything, and even if I chose to come to Earth to experience some things Myself, that doesn't mean that I didn't know them before, or that I don't know now about things that didn't exist in those days. But what I came to Earth to experience was the full range of human emotions--and as I said, I did that as much for your sake as for Mine.

Because I did that, you know that I'm not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of your infirmities, for I was in all points tempted like you are. So the balance is found in the best of both worlds: I came to Earth to experience things like you must experience them, but I was then and always will be all-powerful, all-knowing, and loving you unconditionally. If I chose to block some of that power when I was on Earth so that I could experience human emotions more clearly, that's just part of My love for you. ⁽¹¹⁾

It Was All About Love

My life on Earth was all about love, and I'm still all about love. I went to weddings; I went to funerals; I went to people's houses for meals when they invited Me. I walked the same roads, drank from the same wells, slept on the same ground. I liked to be around people; I liked to talk with them, teach them, help them, heal them. I liked kids. I had time for people. That's the way I was and that's the way I still am, and that's how you're going to be as we spend more and more time together and My influence rubs off on you.

Yes, people listened to Me as I walked the dusty roads of Palestine and spoke to them about My Father on the streets, in their homes and on the hills, and gave them His words. But what really won them was the love in My eyes as I spoke to each individual, the concern and tenderness of My heart and in My face as I listened to their pain and problems, the compassion that I manifested as I reached out to pray for them and ask My Father to heal them, the empathy they felt from Me which compelled Me to continue to give and give again, even when I was weary and needed rest and reprieve Myself. It was the manifestation of My Father's love in ways they could see and feel and understand that brought My words to life and reached deep into their hearts, and brought about great change--even miracles.

I lived and walked amongst the people of the world, immersed in their culture, in the throngs and multitudes each day. I talked with them, walked with them, ate with them, drank with them, danced with them, listened to them, healed them, prayed for them, spoke to them, and shared their pains and sorrows, as well as their joys. My life intersected with theirs in many places, and brought Me in touch with many different scenarios, situations, problems, and types of suffering and human experiences. I was daily faced with the overwhelming needs of others and a world devoid of the love and answers that I was sent to give. I had to be relatable, understanding and compassionate, yet true to My Father's calling and message. How did I achieve this?

The key was being a loving example. People had heard preaching before. They regularly heard the Word of God read and spoken by the priests and clergy of their day. But what they lacked was the manifestation of the spirit of love behind those words that were spoken, the loving application of the Word for their lives. That was what they saw in Me--the example, the manifestation of My Father's love and compassion, the empathy and understanding, and the clarity of the truth of His words. That was what brought His words to life for the people. And the same will be true with you, My witnesses and disciples for today. It is the application of the Word in love that draws people to the truth. ⁽¹²⁾

Think about the story of the blind man in the Bible, the one that I gave sight to. Afterwards My enemies said to him, "Don't you know what this man has done? Why are you associating with Him? He's a sinner." And the man said, "I don't know what He has done. I don't know if He's a sinner. All I know is that once I was blind and now I see" (John 9:24-25).

In essence, what he was saying was, "I don't care what you think about this man. I don't care what He's done in the past or what you think He's done. All I know is that He gave me the most precious gift that anyone had ever given me. He gave me my sight. He loved me enough to care. That's all that matters to me. I experienced His love firsthand." ⁽¹³⁾

Impartial Love

While I was on Earth, was My concern only for those who fit the image of what I liked? Was My love based on whether or not someone treated Me the way I liked to be treated, or whether they said things in attractive terms or in bold, brash and even harsh ways? Did My love hinge on whether I liked their personality or not?

I gave all of My heart and love to the unlovely as freely as to the lovely--to a poor, filthy, blind beggar, or to a hated tax collector, or to a leper, or to a ruler of the synagogue like Jairus, or to a Roman centurion. I had as much love and patience for the brash Peter or the older Matthew or the sometimes arrogant Sons of Thunder, as I called them, as I did for the innocent John. ⁽¹⁴⁾

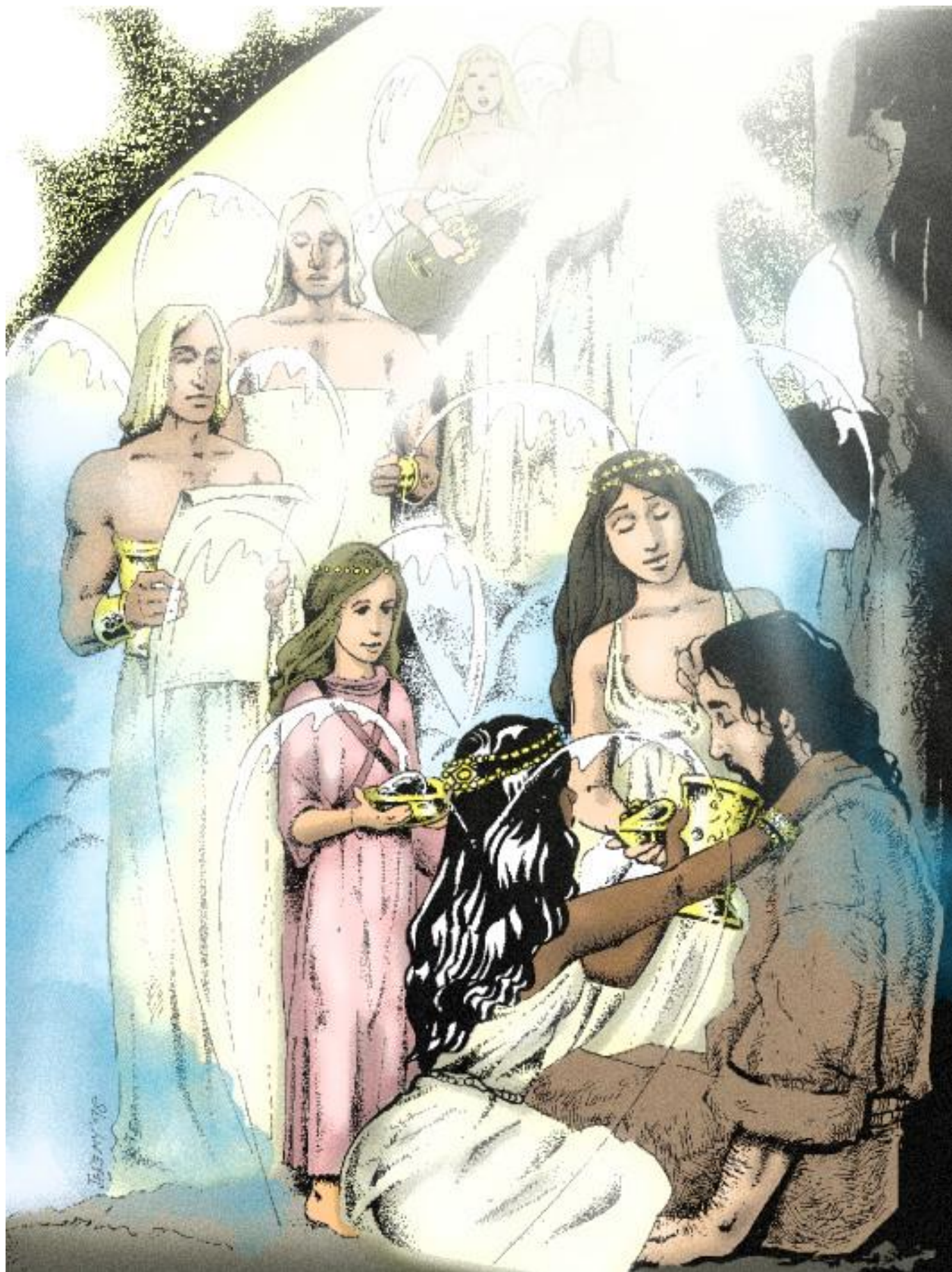
I am not selective in My love, as My Father is not selective in His love. Be followers of Me, and follow the example I left you when I walked on Earth.

As I became flesh and dwelt among you, this itself was proof of My Father's impartiality. My Father did not show Me favoritism by giving Me special treatment as a human. He did not show Me favoritism by putting Me in a comfortable position, raining down earthly wealth and riches. He did not show Me favoritism by giving Me any other earthly powers that are not made available to you.

I walked the dusty roads. I had no earthly possessions to speak of. I was a stranger and a pilgrim. My Father allowed Me to be tested and tempted the same as you. I felt the things that you feel. I had to face the same decisions that you face. I had to deal with the majesty of choice. I had to make My Own decisions. I had to learn obedience through the things I suffered. I hungered. I thirsted. I was afflicted. I knew what it was to have a broken heart. I was despised and rejected of men. I was weak and weary and footsore. I battled with the flesh as you battle. I was tempted in all points as you are. I was the same as you. I had no special dispensations in the flesh that you don't have. I know what it is to feel forsaken, lonely, weary, and destitute.

As Pilate questioned Me, and the crowds jeered, asking why, if I was the King of kings, did not My armies fight; why, if My Father was Who I said He was, did He not send legions to rescue Me on the spot? "Why?" they wanted to know. It was because it was not My destiny and My Father did not play favorites. I had to fulfill the role, My particular role that was Mine to fill. I had to fill the role and pass the tests without any special help or favoritism from above. I was not favored over you. I had to go through the same things, feel the same feelings, pass the same tests--for I was a human as you are a human, the same in all points.

As My Father above has set the ultimate sample in not showing favoritism, and I have followed, I say to you, follow also. I went around everywhere doing good, loving and showing impartial love to all those who crossed My path (Acts 10:38). Do likewise. ⁽¹⁵⁾



I Know Exactly What You Go Through

So much happened during My lifetime in the flesh. I had trials and tests, happy times and sad times. I had battles to face and lessons to learn just like you do. And just like you, I learned to obey through the things I experienced. Because I was in the flesh, I had to learn how to yield and obey and follow My Father's will the same way you do.

You know that when you yield to Me and follow where I lead you, I will always do great things for you. It was the same with My Father and Me when I was on Earth. He did great things for Me and through Me because I stayed close to Him and looked to Him, because I yielded to His will and I obeyed His counsel. But this was a test for Me at times. Because I was in the flesh, I had My share of tests in the flesh, and when those tests came I had to choose to do the right thing, just like you do. Your life is full of choices and decisions, and so was Mine.

I'd like to share some more with you now about My experiences as a man of flesh, because I know that this will help encourage your faith that if I could make it, you can make it too. I know when I say this, it's still a little awesome for you to grasp, because you think, "Yes, but You're God's Son! You're part of God, one and the same, so of course You could make it!" I can see why you might think this way, and you likely conclude that even though I was in the flesh, nevertheless, being the Son of God must have given Me a little edge on gaining victories when I was there on Earth. Well, it might surprise you to know that it didn't--at least not in the way you think.

Flesh is flesh, and all those who are in the flesh are men and women of like passions. As I've told you before, when I was in the flesh I was tempted in all points, just like you. I had to pass My tests, just like you. Otherwise I wouldn't be able to be your intercessor today; the One Who understands you and knows exactly what you go through.⁽¹⁶⁾

I experienced betrayal by loved ones and even family. I too experienced difficulty with living conditions and even with My closest team of friends and co-workers. I too was tempted with the tests and battles and lies of the Enemy. I too faced the challenges of need for supply for Myself and those who followed Me. I encountered the same measure of difficulties and troubles and sufferings that you, My beloved brides, do now. I was broken, just as you are breaking now. There are many shattered pieces of My life--shattered pieces of hard experiences, of difficulties, of trials, of sufferings, of temptations, of sorrow and tears--which My Father transformed within His hands into a marvelous and breathtaking display of hope, courage, faith, and utmost love.

Let the window of My life be an encouragement to you. Let it lift your hearts and bring hope to your spirits to see that I have gone before you and I have filled My life with the very emotions and feelings and difficulties you encounter. If I could make it, My love, so can you. If I could endure, so can you. For I am in you, and though in this world you will have tribulation, be of good cheer--I have overcome the world! (John 16:33).⁽¹⁷⁾

You know that I was touched with the feeling of your infirmities, and was in all points tempted as you are (Hebrews 4:15). Let Me tell you about My experience with a near mental collapse when I was a young man on Earth. I experienced the torment of the Enemy's voice. I understand the feeling of being overwhelmed and not in control of self. The Enemy tried to kill Me, not only mentally, but he tried to kill My body by tempting Me to jump off a mountain.

I suffered mental exhaustion almost to the point of collapse. I not only wanted to please My Father in Heaven, but I wanted to be a good son to My earthly parents, a good brother, a good friend, a good example, a good everything. I was driven in My fleshly mind by a sense of responsibility. I knew the power wasn't in Me, that it had to come from God, My Father, but I struggled with My human mind at times and with the attacks of the Enemy. I had to learn to fight him and fight the temptation to lean to My Own understanding. I was the Enemy's main target and he tried everything he could think of to get Me to give up My crown and yield to him.

When people today read about how the Devil tempted Me in the Bible, they assume because I was the Son of God and I had all power, I could just lift My little finger and destroy the attacks of the Enemy, but they don't stop to remember that I was also a man. I had to learn to fight the Enemy as a man, like you, using the weapons of the spirit that I had--prayer, the keys, calling on the help of My Father and spirit helpers, rebuking the Enemy and his demons and quoting the Word. I learned that when I fought in the spirit I would win.

Sometimes the Enemy's attacks would frighten Me so much that I thought I was going insane. Here I was, the Son of God, so why was I having such a spiritual battle? What was wrong with Me? Where was My power? Those were the times I experienced fear in My human mind, fear that I was sinking, fear that rescue wouldn't come, fear that My Father would not save Me. I had to learn to overcome human fear, to depend on the Spirit and the Word of My Father. I had to learn, like all men of faith, to stand on the Word and not allow the Devil to steal away My faith in My Father's promises. The Word and the weapons of the spirit were My source of strength and overcoming, and they will be yours, too.

As long as I looked at Myself in the flesh, as long as I tried to fight My way out of the attacks of the Enemy with My Own two hands, I felt I was only sinking deeper. But as soon as I started fighting in the spirit with My spiritual weapons--calling on the keys, asking My spirit helpers to come to My rescue, and fighting in prayer and praise, the Enemy had to leave Me alone. Then My angels would come and minister to Me. They'd come to encourage Me on behalf of My Father. They'd bring Me His message of

encouragement; they'd tell Me He was proud of Me for fighting. They'd lift up My face and kiss My tears away and encourage Me to keep going.⁽¹⁸⁾

I had to continually make choices. I was tempted, I was buffeted, and I had to make choices whether to fight on or not. I had to decide if I was going to hold on or give up. The choice was Mine whether to give in to discouragement, to doubts, to fears, or to murmuring. Even though I knew all the glories of Heaven, I, too, was tempted time and again to give in to peer pressure or to compare Myself with others. I was tested on My obedience, on My yieldedness, on My faithfulness in even the littlest things. I had to choose to love. I was tested on My love and how I was going to love. I had to choose to forsake all, and I had to keep forsaking all. I had to choose if I was willing to share those closest to Me with others. I had to decide whether I was going to share love or live selfishly.

I was tempted and I had to make choices. When the Devil took Me up to a high mountain to show Me all the kingdoms of the world, I had to make difficult choices. I had to decide if I was going to live a worldly life, or live for Heaven. I was tempted, and the fight was long and hard! Finally, I had to make the hardest choice of all--the choice of whether or not I wanted to die for you. But I made the right choice, and I have never regretted it! I have never been sorry, because you are the fruit of My right choices. You, My precious Bride, are worth every bit of it! Because I made the right choices, here you are in My arms today!⁽¹⁹⁾

I had many decisions to make along the way as far as what I could partake of and what I couldn't, if I wanted to follow the path that My Father had chosen for Me to walk. It wasn't always easy to forgo those things that appeared to be fun or even innocent so that I would continue to walk the straight and narrow path of My Father's highest will.

Many of the things of the world--such as pursuing extra worldly knowledge or trying to obtain riches--would have weakened My resolve to follow My Father's path, so I chose to eschew them. I chose to forgo them, because I knew that with each step I took to walk closely and follow His path, that of His highest will, I was one step closer to fulfilling My destiny and the reason for My coming to Earth, that of redeeming mankind. With each step of obedience that I took, I was infused with the conviction to walk the straight and narrow path of My Father's will for Me--and, as such, fulfill My destiny.⁽²⁰⁾

I was tempted at times, thinking if only My Father would send legions of angels to correct the problems, I could go Home and get on with other things and not be bothered. "If only I could leave the task to others" was a temptation I had to fight. But My Father had called Me, and leaving the task to others was not My Father's will.

I had been groomed and called for My task from the beginning. Had I not obeyed My call, I would have missed the victories of Heaven. I would have missed the mark. I would have missed saving you. All My preparation and training would have been wasted, and everything would have been different.⁽²¹⁾

What gave Me the compassion, the understanding, the desire to be your High Priest? How could I have ever totally understood what you go through each day? How could I have understood the pain of loss, of defeat, of the frustrations you feel over your own weaknesses and failings? How could I have understood the depths of sorrow and loss over losing one you care deeply for? I loved you from the foundation of the world, but I never fully grasped the depths of what you went through until I came to Earth and I lived that life and felt those agonizing lacks.

It was not until My heart was shattered at feeling cut off from the One I loved above all--My Father--that I fully understood your need and the battles you face. This is something that you cannot gain through observation. Such total comprehension of this comes only in the depths of your heart, and you can only gain this by personal experience. When you weep in anguish at what you see as the loss of the things most dear and precious to you, you then understand the full meaning of loss.

But there's a bright side to this. I went through the experience of being separated from My Father, yet in the end I became closer to Him than ever before, just as you will grow closer to Me as a result of the difficulties you face in life, or your failures. Through these times, I give you the privilege to gain the most priceless gifts: true depth of compassion, the full understanding of the heart, and the ability to relate in a way that can only come from the deepest reaches of your spirit.⁽²²⁾

I understand the weakness of the flesh. There were so many times when I felt like it was all too much and that I just didn't have the strength needed to go on. It was in times like these that I had to cry out even more desperately for My Father to give Me the supernatural strength that I needed to accomplish My tasks, to fulfill the job He had for Me.

At times I was tempted to wonder why it seemed so difficult. Couldn't He have made things a bit easier for Me? It was hard enough being in a physical body, enduring pain and hunger and tiredness through lack of sleep, but to have to endure the difficult spiritual battles as well--to have to rebuke demons, to have to fight for others and their healing, and to have to endure the temptations and difficulties the Enemy kept throwing My way--were real tests.⁽²³⁾

I know what it feels like to be lied about. I know what it feels like to be challenged to your face. I know what it feels like to be threatened. I was threatened many times.⁽²⁴⁾

I know what it's like to feel unappreciated. I went through the same things you're feeling now about some people not

appreciating Me and what I was trying to do for them. I came unto My Own, and they didn't receive Me (John 1:11). I came to heal the sick, and many didn't want to be healed, especially not in heart. I suffered the pain of rejection, and felt the pain of My love and sacrifices not being returned, but rather thrown back in My face. I was made of no reputation, and was called a sinner, a winebibber, and even a devil (Philippians 2:7; John 9:16; 10:20; Matthew 11:19). I was slandered and hated without cause, and they finally put Me to death out of hatred and fear of Me.

I know how it feels when people don't think well of you. But I realized that that was one of the prices of giving My all to My Father and of following and obeying His will. I had to decide in My heart that "none of these things move Me" (Acts 20:24). I was willing to pay the price that not all would receive Me or My help, or appreciate what I was doing out of love for them. And that's what I ask of you.

I know it stings and hurts your hearts, but please don't let these things offend you or pull you off the wall. Rather let it soften and break your hearts in a way that will propel you forward spiritually more than ever, by driving you to Me for My perspective, My view, and My comfort and instruction during these times of growing and stretching.⁽²⁵⁾

I'm so thankful I was able to cry out to My Father for help, and that He always came through for Me in the end! Sometimes it was a test; I couldn't see how things were going to work out in the flesh, so I had to trust that My Father knew best and that He had everything under control.

At times it was difficult to hang on, knowing that further battles and tests and difficulties awaited Me. However, for each moment of time, My Father would always come through for Me, until I was able to say, at the end, "It is finished!"

I never received much thanks or appreciation while on Earth, but when I rejoined My Father, I was more than repaid for every sacrifice, every difficulty, and I would gladly do it all again if I needed to. It was worth it--every trial, every difficulty, and every temptation. It was worth it all. So My message to you is to hold on. Keep on keeping on day by day!⁽²⁶⁾

It wasn't just My enemies that hurt Me. At times I felt that My Own disciples or those of My flesh-and-blood family didn't understand Me, or the things that I said, or the calling that I was given. There were times when those whom I loved the most forsook Me and left Me alone.

So I know the deep hurt and anguish that you feel when it seems that others have failed you. But I had to fight on despite the hurts I felt. I had to follow through on the calling that My Father had given Me, even though just before I was to make My greatest sacrifice, I felt that My disciples and loved ones forsook Me and that My Father Himself turned His back on Me.

What a terrible defeat it would have been if I'd harbored the hurt from the words of others or the accusations of My enemies. What a triumph it would have been for the Evil One if I had nursed My wounds or expected others to come and make things right before I went on with the calling that My Father had given Me of giving My life so that the world might be saved.

I had a mission to fulfill, just as you do. I was working in a pretty tight timeframe to complete My mission, just as you are as the End draws nearer. And know that the same supernatural strength that was given to Me to put all the hurts, the accusations, and the sting of others' words and actions behind Me, is available to you in the hour that you call upon Me, so that you can fulfill the calling that I have given you. Don't allow these things to hold you back, for if you do, there will be a loss--not only to you personally but also to the progress of My work overall.

I love you and I need you--just you. So cast off the weights that do so easily beset you, and run with patience the race that is set before you, looking unto Me, the Author and Finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). I will be right by your side and I will give you the grace, the forgiveness, and all that you need so that the healing balm of My Spirit may go to work in your life and make what was once a broken and crushed heart into one that is bigger and more beautiful, for it will be melded together with Mine.⁽²⁷⁾



~ PART TWO ~

Time Alone with My Father Pays off

I had a lot of tough situations to confront when I lived down there. There were plenty of obstacles I had to hurdle and overcome. Do you know what one of the biggest lessons I had to learn was? One of My biggest lessons and tests was learning not to lean on the arm of My flesh, but to lean on God, My Father. Yes, I was sorely tested in the battle between flesh and spirit. I had gone to Earth and become a man in flesh and blood. I became flesh so that I could feel like you feel, hurt like you hurt, laugh like you laugh, and experience life as you experience life.

Here I had done it, I became flesh--only to discover that one of the most important things I would have to learn as a man of flesh was to lean on the spirit! In simple terms, I had to learn to get back to My beginnings, to get back to the basics!

I know what it's like to struggle between flesh and spirit and to be torn between the two. I had to be tempted with this in order to understand you. Had I not been tempted with leaning on the arm of My flesh, I would not be able to help you now to get the victory over this all-too-common ploy of Satan.

Every time I was faced with a needy situation, I had to make a decision. I had to choose whether I would try to solve the problems on My Own or I would stop, check in with My Father, acknowledge that I needed help from Heaven, and get My power from on High.

The Devil was always on the lookout for ways he could tempt Me with this. As you already know, just as I was about to launch out into My public ministry, the Devil tempted Me with riches, power, and glory when he offered Me the kingdoms of the world. But what you don't know is that when the Devil saw that that didn't work, as I ventured out in My work among the public, he tried to hit Me from a different angle altogether.

That slimy Devil would often try to get at Me in more subtle ways. He wasn't blatantly tempting Me any longer with quitting altogether and forsaking the calling I'd been given, but he did try to tempt Me to go about My work leaning on My Own fleshly wisdom. I soon found out that some of these more subtle tricks of Satan were potentially more deadly than some of his more obvious attacks upon Me.

One of Satan's favorite tricks was to try to get Me to fall by leaning to My Own fleshly wisdom and understanding instead of listening to Heaven and getting My direction from above. He'd try to tell Me I could do things on My Own, that now that I had ventured out from Home, why not flap My wings a little and see what I could make of Myself--that is, in the flesh! Ha! It sounds so ridiculous now! Nevertheless, this was a big test for Me, because I was in the flesh, so in My fleshly mind it looked tempting.

Satan would toss out the thought, "Here I am in the flesh and this is all new to Me. And after all, I am the Son of God, so surely even in the flesh, I must be superior to everyone else around. Even My fleshly wisdom must far surpass these others, so why do I need to stop and hear from Heaven, when I can likely solve all these problems on My Own?" Ha! The absurdity of his lies!

When this didn't work, he'd try to tempt Me into thinking I didn't have enough time to hear from Heaven on certain things--that because there was always a pressing need, I had to cut down on My time in prayer. Satan knew good and well if he could get Me to lean on My Own arm of the flesh, that I would lose the power I needed to overcome him and set you free.

So I had to fight these battles of the flesh and My Own fleshly wisdom and understanding just like you do, because I was in the flesh! Just as your life is made up of constant choices, so was Mine. I had to make choices every day, and all of My choices included this: I had to choose whether I was going to get My directions explicitly from My Father in Heaven or I was going to try and give it a go on My Own and try to solve the problems in My Own fleshly strength and wisdom.

The Key to Success Is in Hearing from Heaven!

The battle of flesh and spirit was a definite hurdle that I had to clear if I was going to do the things I knew My Father expected of Me. The only way I was able to hold on and to pass the tests was because I called out to My Father and He gave Me a plan. And it's when I followed that plan that I found the strength, stamina and wisdom to fight and win.

I learned through the things I experienced on Earth, but I also learned through the experiences and mistakes of others. As I observed others around Me, I sometimes had questions about their behavior. When I took these questions to My Father, He answered each one, and I was able to learn through this. Because I asked My Father about everything, He opened My eyes so that I was able to learn from what I saw around Me. I was able to grow this way and avoid making the same mistakes as others. I learned from observing. I learned from others' mistakes.

As I did this, it was plain to see that I had something far superior to fleshly wisdom--because everything My Father showed Me always worked out. I had a connection with Heaven, and as long as I kept that connection strong, as long as I heard from Heaven rather than leaning on My fleshly wisdom, I succeeded.

The plan My Father gave Me was simple. If I was going to be successful, if I was going to have the strength and stamina, the faith and the wisdom to accomplish My mission, I would have to take time with Him every day. I would have to get away from not only the crowds, but even My closest friends, for a few moments of personal time in the quiet, free from distraction and alone with My - Father, where I could listen and hear clearly from Him.

This is why I got up early and went out to pray before the busy day began. This is why I would often hide away or go out to the hills--so I could have this time to look to Heaven and get My direction for the day. This is how I was able to have the strength and the wisdom to carry out My ministry. This is how I was able to work miracles, and how I was able to give answers to those who asked Me questions--because I heard from My Father first and I got My directions from Him.

Every time I was going to face a tough situation or do anything of significance, I had to look to My Father alone to see Me through. The Devil was on the job, trying to tempt Me into thinking I could do it Myself. Why not just skip this step of having to hear from My Father and give it a go on My Own? But because I made the right choices, because I made the decision every time to not make a move without hearing from Heaven, I always won in the end.

As I followed the plan My Father had given, He opened My eyes to how others around Me had fallen. He showed Me clearly where they had failed. Those who seemed strong in the flesh, who were wise in the ways of the world, who were learned, who were men of understanding in worldly ways and wisdom, knew nothing compared to what My Father was showing Me. It became clear as I looked around Me that My fleshly wisdom was no match for what My Father gave Me while I was alone with Him in the spirit. It was clear how superior I was--not because of any great thing of My flesh, but only due to the miracle-working power of God that I possessed.

My flesh was just like everyone else's, but My wisdom far surpassed any wisdom, power or strength on Earth, because I listened to Heaven. Heaven was in Me, and the proof was in the results. The miracles I performed, the power I demonstrated which changed hearts and minds and healed bodies--the power that helped Me overcome the world was My proof. I won the victory because with Heaven's help I passed the tests. I gained victory because I refused to lean on the arm of My flesh, but instead yielded My fleshly self completely to Heaven's power.

So this was one of My big tests on Earth, to lean on God, My Father, and not to lean to My Own fleshly mind and understanding. I had to yield and lean on God in Me and not on My flesh--just like you! ⁽²⁸⁾

Strength in Stillness

There is great strength in stillness, for "in quietness and in confidence lies your strength" (Isaiah 30:15b). My children, do not take lightly the great importance of this wisdom, for indeed it is of great worth.

I had to pass time in prayer and in communion with Heaven, seeking My Father diligently, in order to receive His anointing, His holy consecration, the infilling of His power and strength for each and every major task I was faced with.

Why did I have to pass this time in prayer and in meditation, alone and in quiet? Because in Me, that is, in My flesh, I could not win the battle. The flesh was not capable of winning the battle in spirit; therefore, if I was to win, I had to have this time. I had to receive the anointing in spirit first. Only through this time alone with My Father was I able to receive the full strength in spirit that only

He could give, to win the battle.

The battles I fought, though manifested in the flesh, were battles in the spirit, just as your battles in this Endtime, though manifested in the flesh all around you, are battles in spirit, and thus they must be won in the spirit. The only way I could win My battles was to draw on the strength of Heaven, and this could best be done by starting out in prayer and in supplication to My Father for the anointing and the power to carry on.

When I walked on Earth, having this time alone with My Father in prayer and supplication for My needs was the only way I was able to find success, for in My flesh I did not have strength. This private time to win the battle in spirit first is what caused Me to triumph, and so it is with you, My children. It was in these times alone with My Father that I was able to give Him My full, undivided attention; likewise, in these times I was able to receive more fully from Him, without the distraction and disturbances of others around.

The servant is not above the Master, My children, and if it was necessary for Me when I walked in the flesh, so it is necessary for you. I had to get alone and quiet with My Father for each commission that He gave Me; otherwise I would not have had the strength to carry it through. I would not have had the anointing and the power to see the purpose and wisdom in what He was asking of Me each time had I not first stopped and received the power from on high. I would not have even known what I was to do. I would not have had the direction. For it was there, in those quiet moments, that I received the direction and My instruction on which way I was to go.

As I was alone in prayer in the wilderness, I received My commission to launch out into My public ministry. It was at the foot of the mount, as I rose up early to pray, that I received instruction as well as the anointing to go and preach to the multitudes. It was there, as I had prayer and held vigil with My Father, that I was filled with faith to work the miracle of the five loaves and the fishes.

It was while I was alone and in the quiet of the early predawn hours that I received the anointing to preach the Sermon on the Mount. It was while I was alone in the Garden of Gethsemane that I was consecrated by My Father, sanctified and anointed with oil from Heaven, which gave Me the power to follow through and die on the cross so that you could be saved. It was in the garden in those midnight hours, as I held vigil with My Father, that I was filled with the faith and determination of God-the faith to stand true, the determination to not falter, the conviction to look Pilate in the eye and not waver in My resolve as I announced that My Kingdom was not of this world.

It was there as I passed the hour in prayer that I received faith and patience to walk the road to Calvary. It was there in that garden of prayer that My heart was filled with love to overflowing so that I might have love enough to forgive even those who pierced My hands and feet and crowned Me with thorns. It was there in the place of prayer that I received full preparation of faith and strength and power and the full anointing to finish the task that lay before Me.

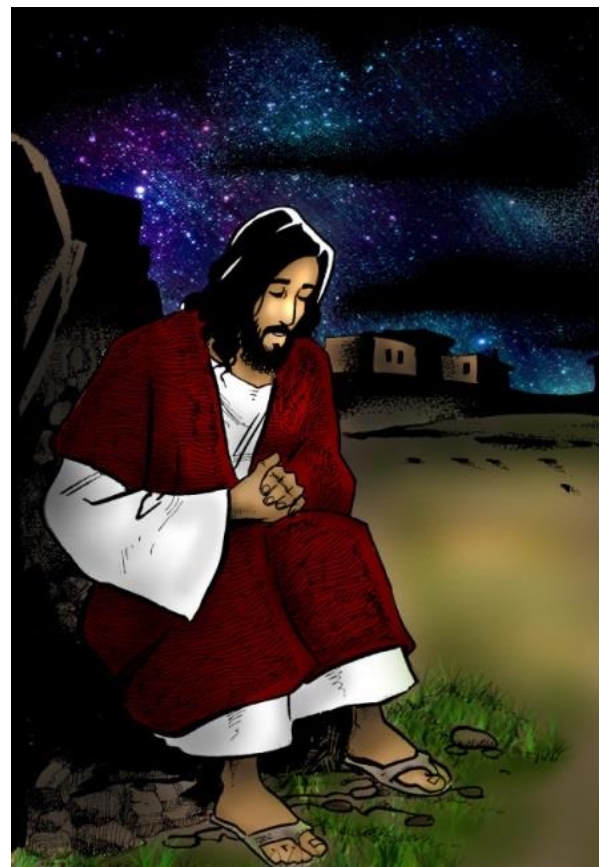
Everything I did, all My accomplishments, all the victories, every success, began in the quiet moments, in the secret chambers, while I was alone with My Father. Why? Because this is when and where I received not only the commission, but the anointing and the power to go and fight and win the battle.

I did not try to fight the battles by Myself, and neither should you. I knew I couldn't make it on My Own. In the flesh, I knew I was weak, for this is the way of the flesh. In the flesh, it was not in Me, just as in your flesh it is not in you. In the flesh, it was impossible to win the battle of spirit; therefore, if I was to win, I had to have the full anointing and firepower of the spirit first and foremost.

Did I not defy all the power and might of the arm of flesh of man? I did indeed, for I won the battle in spirit first and foremost, so that victory in the battle of the flesh followed. I won the victory in both spirit and flesh. In spirit, by saving your souls through My death and crucifixion and atonement; in flesh, by conquering death itself by rising from the dead.

Only as you reach out for the Spirit of God and the mercy of God will you find success, and this is why you must get alone in prayer and supplication before the battle. I had to do it when I was on Earth, and so must you, My children, if you are to win. As the real battle is waged in spirit, so it is in the spirit that you must receive the consecration from My hand in order to fight through and win. This is why, as I did, you must have this time alone with Me before you launch out on each new venture or mission.

Each time an important task lay before Me, I had to go to My Father and implore Him for His help and His mercy and His strength to carry it out. This was the only way I could make it and the only reason I had success. I had to get alone with Him and win the battle in spirit before I could go out and



demonstrate His power before all men.

If the battle were in the flesh, it would be possible for those strong in the flesh to win. But because the battle is not in the flesh but the spirit, you must come to Me. As I went to My Father for help and mercy, for strength and power to do each major task He set before Me, so must you.⁽²⁹⁾

There will always be too much to do. There will always be something you aren't getting to, and there will always be more you wish you could do. I know the feeling; it was often like that for Me too, but that's why it's all the more important that you have your priorities straight and that you know that the things you're doing are the most important, because those are the things that will bear lasting fruit.

You won't always know yourself what's more important or what's most timely, and that's why it's so important that you ask Me. When I was on Earth I wasn't always sure either, so I asked My Father, and He helped Me with My priorities. As you'll notice from My life's sample, some of the things I chose to take the time to do weren't always the more obviously important or timely things, like healing someone or raising the dead, for example. I knew I had to be led of the Spirit, I had to listen to My Father, because time was short and I needed to make the very most of the time I had.

There was always the press of the people. I felt it even more than you do, and yet I took time to go fishing with My disciples, to talk with the woman at the well, and to spend time with the children, etc. Many of the decisions I made were contrary to the natural mind of man, but I was obedient to the leading of My Father. Some of the seemingly "smaller" decisions I made, or the ones that seemed the most illogical and contrary to natural expectations, were sometimes the ones that had the biggest impact in the lives of others and on history.

Follow My sample of listening to My Father each step of the way, and you too will hit the mark and will be the most effective you can be.⁽³⁰⁾

Receiving God's Guidance

How was I able to know what the right decision was in each situation, and then make that decision?—By making listening to My Father the cardinal and unbreakable rule in My life. Every action I took, each choice I made, was the right one, the humble one, the perfect one, because it was the one My Father wanted Me to make.

Although being faithful to ask Me about everything may seem difficult and impractical to you, what you need to realize is that it doesn't have to be a long and in-depth process every time. The Spirit is broadcasting all the time—all you have to do is learn to turn on and tune in. Doing so is vital to the success of your personal mission on Earth, just as it was to Mine.

Of course, learning to hear clearly from Heaven sometimes takes time and practice. It doesn't always come easily; it requires discipline and concentration in order to focus and to receive, and it can sometimes be a real fight in the spirit. It was for Me; that was something I had to get desperate about and fight for too. What do you think I was doing those 40 days and nights after I was baptized by John, other than being tempted by the Devil? (See Luke 4:1-13.) I was getting desperate with My Father and learning to tap into His strength and Spirit.

I knew that if I couldn't tap into My Father's Spirit and receive instruction and guidance from Him, I'd never make it. I knew full well that it would never be possible to accomplish My purpose and perform My Father's will in each circumstance I would be in, in each situation I would be faced with, if I didn't have a direct, strong link with Him.

You may assume that being able to hear from My Father was a completely natural thing for Me, that it was just second nature to Me, a part of My makeup, because I was the Son of God come to Earth. But that wasn't the case. It was very much something I had to get desperate about and work at. The Enemy fought it tooth and nail; it was an intense fight in the spirit and didn't come easy.

Does it seem odd to you that I wasn't always able to hear My Father's voice automatically and without any obscurity whatsoever? What you have to understand is that My Father had to allow Me to feel somewhat disconnected from Him at first, because connecting had to be something that I had to learn how to do, something that I had to fight for. I had to take on your nature and experience your weaknesses to understand the difficulties you'd be faced with, so that I could help you overcome them.

I was working with My Father, just as you work with Me today. I had to tap into His power. I couldn't do it on My Own; I didn't have all of the wisdom of Heaven with Me by osmosis, just as you don't today. I had to ask for it, I had to suck for it, I had to be yielded to receive it, just as you have to do today.

When I came to Earth, I underwent a sort of memory wipe. I couldn't have gone through what I needed to go through, and have learned what I needed to learn in order to be your High Priest, if I had been all-knowing at the time and had never needed My Father's help, and had never felt what it was like to be in need of answers, guidance, and instruction. I had to go through what you go through.

Of course, it eventually came easier to hear from Heaven once I learned what steps to take in order to break through in spirit and receive. But even when I became proficient in it, there were times when the answer or direction didn't come in an instant, when it was still a battle to receive, and it wasn't just "all clear" the moment I asked.

The first example that comes to mind was when the Pharisees brought the adulterous woman to Me, asking, "Master, what should be done with this woman?" I knew they were testing Me and that they were out to get Me with that question, and I didn't know how to answer it. I couldn't rely on My Own wisdom or experience, nor did I receive the answer from My Father right away, even though I asked. That was the hardest part and was a big test for Me. Would I panic? Would I go ahead in My Own reasoning? Or would I simply not answer and walk away? What was I to do? I did not know. *I will wait. I will be still in faith and wait for My Father, and I will trust.*

Those moments seemed like hours to Me, and to those around Me as well.-To My disciples who wondered inwardly if I had the answer to such a controversial question; it seemed like a lose-lose situation, and their faith in Me was tested. To the scribes and Pharisees, who were impatient and pressed Me, as they were eager to trap Me in front of the people. To the crowd around Me who were keen to mete out judgment. And to the woman whose faith was also deeply tested, as she awaited her sentence.

It was a life-and-death situation, and the pressure was on. I was tempted to give in to the huge amount of pressure I felt to "deliver." But I waited for the guidance of My Father. I waited quietly and patiently for the voice of the Lord. I waited in faith, knowing that My Father would not fail Me if I did not fail to do as He had commanded.

Then the answer came! My Father spoke, and then it was clear, and what a relief that was! It was the perfect answer and was the right thing to do. He instructed Me to say, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." And because no one there was without sin, no stones were thrown that day, and I forgave the woman's sins. (See John 8:3-11.)

You see, much like you, I had no great wisdom of My Own, save that which I received from the Father. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with Whom can be no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17).

"Let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak" (James 1:19). Only once you've received My direction, then proceed in faith. Once you're sure it's what I'm showing you to do, don't be afraid to do it. Ask Me for My anointing, and then go in faith, trusting that it will bear the right fruit in your life, and in the lives of those around you. ⁽³¹⁾

I know it's a challenge to use your gift of prophecy; it was for Me too at times when I was on Earth. There were a lot of distractions and it took a lot of faith and stretching on My part to receive from My Father. That's why I got alone and went on a mountain sometimes, just to have some time to sit still and hear His voice. I got up in the early morning hours, before everyone else got up, and I just took that quiet time alone with My Father. You could try that too, if you like, and see if it works for you.

Don't let the Enemy discourage you about your gift of prophecy; know that I want to speak to you. Just keep tanking up on My Word, and fill your heart and mind and spirit with My promises. Like the verse, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). And here's another one: "Ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). Remember My promises; they were written for you.

So when the Enemy comes in with his lies and discouragement, making you feel like you just can't hear from Me, or that it's your own thoughts that you're thinking, rebuke him with these scriptures and with My keys. Really set him back on his heels. Trust that after you have prayed and asked Me to sit and talk with you, I will "show you great and mighty things which you know not." I promise to do so, and I never break My promise! (Numbers 23:19). ⁽³²⁾

Spiritual Energy

When I walked the Earth and saw the frailty of man, and experienced men's suffering and pain and afflictions, as I was touched with the feelings of their infirmities, I was moved with compassion upon them (Matthew 9:36). I was moved to help them and to reach out to them, to touch them and to heal them. But in order to accomplish My mission on Earth, I learned that I needed to spend time with My Father, time in prayer and in earnestness of spirit to make the connection and to receive from Him in order to be able to give to those in need.

Likewise, when I sent My disciples, My followers, out into the highways and the byways-not only to seek and to save that which was lost, not only to preach the Gospel, but to heal the sick-they learned that they needed to partake of the Father's Spirit in order to have the power to release many from the plagues which bound them. There was a time when they tried to cast out the demons, but learned that their own anointing and gifts were not enough. I explained to them that that kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:14-21).

They found that it wasn't enough to preach in My Name, but they also needed to spend time in prayer and in desperation in order to make the connection and to keep the connection with the spirit strong. For My gifts are given in different degrees according to the need and the urgency of the situation, and the strength of the battle in the spirit, as well as My disciples' desperation and faith.

Healing is spiritual energy. For instance, when I was touched by the woman who reached out with faith to stop her bleeding, she drew from Me virtue, the power and energy of the Spirit (Mark 5:25-30). For this reason, I had to spend time in prayer, drawing from the power of My Heavenly Father before I was able to minister to the people. It was as if during those times alone with My Father I was being recharged with the virtue of the Spirit that I needed in order to go out and minister to the multitudes.

I drew from My Father's source of energy, and the people in turn drew from Me what I had received from the Father. My

physical body had no power of itself to heal, neither did My physical mind. But My Spirit was the relay station for power from on High, which was converted to healing energy in those who reached out with faith and desperation.

Because of My divine nature, I was blessed with all that the Father had to give-what you call the gifts of the Spirit. I had the gifts of wisdom, healing, miracles, and prophecy. However, of My Own self-that is, of My human nature-I had nothing. It all came from the Father and His hosts of ministering spirits who were at My disposal. That is why I said that there was none good except the Father, and that the works that I did were not My works, but the Father's, and the Words that I spoke were not Mine, but from the Father (Mark 10:18). Because I was in the flesh of man, all that was of the divine nature had to be given to Me from the Father, and to get it I had to spend time with Him.

I would have you follow My lead while I was upon Earth.⁽³³⁾

Living the Doctrine

When I walked on Earth as a man, as I lived the doctrine that had been given to Me from My Father, I was able to build a solid rock foundation and I was filled with wisdom from above. It was in living the doctrine that I became a wise man. My source of strength was in living the doctrine--the Word that had been given Me from above. Had I not lived the doctrine to the full, I might have been able to do some good to help a few of those who sought My help--perhaps a little here and a little there--but I would never have been able to finish the task set before Me. As I followed and obeyed, I discovered that only in living the doctrine to the full was I able to receive the strength, wisdom and power from My Father above in full measure.

The servant is not above his Lord, and as it was for Me, it is the same for you. If you want to receive My full power, then live My Words to the full. If you live My doctrine only in part, you will likewise only be able to avail yourselves of My strength and power in part. With what measure you follow My Words, by this measure is wisdom, happiness, joy, peace and fulfillment measured back to you again.

Following closely on My mission field was what kept Me going and gave Me the strength and power to witness, and this carried Me through. The thrill and the excitement of seeing one soul saved made it worth it all. The many problems and the burdens and pains and press of the people melted away every time I was able to see the mighty power of My Father's hand as I tapped in and wrought miracles.

I, too, heard the many voices--some through sincere loved ones who were close to Me. Yet I learned that My strength and power would only come in following My Father above. Had I followed the many other voices that attempted to sway Me, things would have been very different. My foundation would have been weakened through the multitude of other things that would have entered in. It was in living the doctrine, in following the truth and living it 100 percent that I was strengthened and able to stay pure in heart, and single in mind, heart and spirit.⁽³⁴⁾

Tests of Pride!

Another great test I had to pass, and one that is akin to leaning on fleshly wisdom, is the test of pride. The temptation to yield to the pride of life is the great test of all mankind, and I was not exempt. Pride caused the downfall of Lucifer, and it was his hope it would be Mine too, so he tempted Me with pride.

Even though I was born the son of a lowly carpenter, even though I didn't have much to be proud of in the way of worldly riches and education, as I grew and became strong in spirit, the Enemy tempted Me with pride in other ways.

It was at the time of that famous feast in Jerusalem when one of My greatest temptations occurred. I was just 12 when I sat among the wise and learned men in the temple, but when I spoke they were amazed at My understanding. This wisdom came from My Father in Heaven; yet Satan whispered in My ear, tempting Me to take the credit to Myself.

A short time later, when My mother and My father Joseph returned for Me, if I had yielded to this temptation of pride, I would not have had the strength to yield and obey My parents' wishes to return with them to My hometown. You see, My fleshly pride was telling Me to stand My ground, to declare My independence, to let My parents know that I was master of My Own fate, and to insist on staying there in the temple where I might both learn and further display My wisdom in front of the wise and educated men.

Up until that point, it was My Heavenly Father's will that I sit among the elders, for during those few days I was able to learn a good deal from them. It was also during this time that My Father wished to demonstrate there in the temple that His power and wisdom was with Me. During this time He was able to reveal this to those whose hearts and minds were open as I spoke in the temple.

But at the moment My parents returned for Me, My Heavenly Father had accomplished His purpose, and it was time for Me to change gears. In that moment, as I was tempted with pride to want to ignore My parents' wishes to return home, I shot up a thought in prayer to My Father. As quickly as I called for help, the answer came, right there on the spot, I heard His voice clearly. With simple instructions He said, "You've finished My business here, and now it's time to go. I will help You resist the pride of life as You go and obey Your fleshly parents, for I have given them charge over You."

Hearing this word from My Father gave Me the strength I needed to resist Satan's temptation to yield to My pride. Having

this word from My Father gave Me the courage to humbly submit to My parents' wishes and return with them to Nazareth, where I obeyed them until it was His time to launch out into My Own ministry.

I passed this test of pride as a young boy, and others that were similar. But when My public ministry got into full swing, that's when My fleshly pride was put to the test in yet a bigger way.

The Humility Plan!

If you think about it, you'll see that it stands to reason I would be tempted with pride. After all, in My days of glory on Earth, though My enemies sought to kill Me, those were also the weeks and months when the crowds and the masses hailed Me. During My days of popularity, the Devil tempted Me with the pride of life.

He tempted Me time and again to take the credit to Myself, to pat Myself on the back and indulge in self-glory for the mighty things My Father did for Me. I could have easily taken the credit for all those miracles, had I yielded to pride. The only way I was able to resist this temptation was to be constantly looking to My Father in Heaven and calling on Him for help. When I did this, He again gave Me a plan. This time it was the humility plan. Whenever I was tempted with pride, He said the way to combat it was to openly give Him all the credit and all the glory, even when My flesh didn't feel like it.

This is why I regularly reminded My disciples and those around Me that in Myself, in My flesh, I could not do one mighty thing, and I knew nothing except what the Father showed Me. This was the absolute truth, and voicing it, reminding others of this fact, not only gave rightful credit to Whom credit was due, but it helped Me to continue walking the humble road. I had to constantly give My Father the credit and the glory, and because I did, I was able to resist the temptation of pride.

The next step of the humility plan My Father gave Me was this: After I was sure to give Him the credit, I could then reach out and do a humble deed. His advice was never to pass up a needy situation without doing something about it, and to never pass up an opportunity to do the humble thing. He said, "Ask Me every time. Ask Me what I want You to do in every situation, and I'll make it clear to You. I'll show You what action to take right there on the spot in every situation You find yourself in. I'll show You how You can demonstrate My love through Your humility. Humility, My Son, is the key to combating the pride of life that plagues the flesh."

So I followed this plan step by step, and as I did, My Father showed Me how I could put humility into action by getting up and doing the humble thing. As you know, He led Me to take on the role of a servant. Oftentimes He led Me to lay My Own desires aside and reach out to those around Me--whether it was walking out of My way to heal the sick, or stooping to lift a soul that was weary with a sincere smile, a kind word, a warm embrace, or a reassuring pat on the back.

There were so many ways He showed Me I could be humble. He showed Me to always lend a listening ear to those who needed to pour out about their troubles, and I was never to be too busy to stop and acknowledge the children. He led Me to give loving appreciation to those around Me, and to show My appreciation through deeds of kindness and love. He led Me to put the needs of others first, before My Own, making sure the others in My company had a place to sleep, enough food, a warm coat when needed, and a shoulder to lean on.

There were endless ways the Father showed Me I could show humility--most of which I have spoken about to you today at various times. And as I followed His instruction every time, I was able to resist the temptation of pride.

So you see, I also had to battle and resist these sins of the flesh--not only learning to resist leaning on the arm of My flesh, but learning to resist the pride that threatened Me! But as I resisted, as I turned to My Father instead for His strength and help to keep walking the humble road, that's when He was able to manifest His strength and power through Me. This is how I was able to work great miracles--by walking in humility, by not leaning to the arm of My flesh, but by leaning on the power of Heaven to do through Me what I could not do in My flesh alone.⁽³⁵⁾

I had to constantly be aware of My sample to others--and needless to say, I had to stay very close to My Father in order to be the sample He wanted Me to be. I was in the flesh, so I could have made grave mistakes at any time if it were not for prayer and My strong connection with Heaven. I had to fight for it, because after all, being in the flesh, there were many times My flesh didn't want to do the humble thing right off. Flesh is flesh, and there were many times when, because of My human nature, I didn't feel like doing the humble thing.

Each time I was tested, I had to yield. I had to humble Myself. I had to step out and obey. In the flesh I had to show Myself weak, yet it was this weakness that was My strength. Yes, My loves, it was the strength of weakness that made Me strong. It was the strength of weakness that pulled Me through. It was the strength of weakness in the flesh that made Me what I was and enabled Me to pull down the power of Heaven.

I was the pioneer of the weakness revolution! Believe Me, I know what it's all about. I know the glory of it, the wisdom of it, and the dire necessity of it. And this is why I'm requiring the same of My children today, for this is the only way you'll be able to do greater things than I did! It is given to you to do these "greater things"--greater things than I did when I walked in the flesh. But I must tell you, this will only be given to those who will follow closely, to those who are willing to show themselves weak so that My glory may shine through.

This is the key if you are to follow closely--you must walk in humility and show yourself weak. This is what I had to do, and

this was My success. I was put to the test many times, just as you are put to the test day in and day out as you're presented with options, through many circumstances and conditions during the day when you must decide to do the humble thing or to pass it by.

I had to acquire the habit, just as you must, and it was through prayerfulness and daily seeking My Father that He helped Me each time and I was able to pass the tests. My Father taught Me and led Me and showed Me ways I could do the humble thing each time I looked to Him--and this is how I formed good habits. I was the originator of the "do-the-humble-thing" habit! Yes, I had to learn all the same lessons that you are having to learn today--and in this too I pioneered the way!

I want to share with you how it was I formed the humble-thing habit. I had to be aware. I had to be open to Heaven, open to My Father's voice and His suggestions. I had to ask for it--ask Him for ways, specifics, on how I could do the humble thing. I knew I didn't have it in Me--that is, in My flesh--to do what He was requiring of Me. I knew it had to come from Heaven, and that He was going to have to show Me what to do, how to act, what to say. I had to be very prayerful.

Doing the humble thing doesn't always come easy to the flesh, and this is why I had to learn it--I had to make it a habit. I learned that if I stayed in close contact with Heaven, I would be shown what the humble thing to do was in each instance. As I did this, I was able to create the habits, until they became part of Me.

I had to be the living Word to the people--to be humble and reflect the spirit of love, to walk in humility, simplicity, and lowliness of mind. I could not merely preach humility and love, I had to be humble and give love.

When I walked on the Earth, in order to truly walk in humility, showing Myself weak, I found I had to continually be on guard to not fall into pride. As you know, I was tempted in all points just as you are--and that means all, A-L-L. All points, including My pride. My human pride was tested time and again, for this was a point that Satan would have delighted to see Me fall in, since it was the crux of his own downfall.

Take a minute to think about it. It would have been very easy for Me to be lifted up in pride. After all, I was the begotten Son of God. Though I was weak in the flesh, I was strong in the Spirit. And though I was despised and eventually rejected of men, as news of Me spread abroad, as the crowds began to gather around Me everywhere I went, and as My Father wrought great miracles and mighty signs and wonders by My hand, as I grew in stature and learned to hone the gifts of the Spirit, this could have easily gone to My head--thinking it was in My flesh I was able to do such things.

I was tested time and again in many ways on My pride, whether I would take the credit to Myself or look to My Father and give Him all the glory. I was tested many times--whether I would do the humble thing or use My gifts to My Own end.

When I stood before magistrates and was asked why I did not send forces to vindicate My cause if I were a king, My pride was tested. In My flesh, I wanted to call down the legions of Heaven and show My force and power right there on the spot. But My Father knew a better way, and it was the humble way. My flesh didn't receive great glory in that moment as I stood and replied that My Kingdom was not of this world, for if it were, My armies would fight. But by taking the humble route, by standing back and letting My Father work in the way He knew best, the victory came, and all glory was given to Heaven!

It would have been easy to allow the blessings of the Spirit that were Mine to minister to My pride if I hadn't stayed in close touch with My Father. I had to learn to fight against the natural tendency of the flesh I walked in to think that it was so great.

When the news about Me went out and the crowds gathered from far and wide, that day when the 5,000 gathered and I fed them from the loaves and fishes, the praise of the people could have really gone to My head had I not resisted the temptation. As I worked miracle after miracle, each time My pride was tested--whether I would let it go to My head or whether I would give My Father the glory and honor that was His due, choosing to walk in humility.

A key for Me was in always giving My Father the credit, for in this way I was showing Myself humble. When the learned men of the world questioned Me, I told them, "I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me." And so it was. I found I had to always point to My Father and give Him all the honor and glory, as I replied, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father Who honors Me."

(36) You see, the choice was Mine. As a man, I was tested in all points like you, and each time, with each test, I had to choose.

Humility Levels

I am humility, and the more you make the humble way your way of operating, the more you have of Me. I am satisfaction. I am fulfillment. I am the all in all. And all of this will be yours, as you follow in My footsteps and walk the humble road.

Here is a simple practice that will be a help and safeguard to you: Ask Me at the start of each day if there is anything in particular I want you to do that day that will help you to be more humble. Check in with Me each morning and ask, "Is there anything You want to tell me regarding my humble walk today, dear Jesus?"

Then at the end of each day, as you retire, check in with Me again. Take a moment of silence to touch base with Me specifically on your humility and ask if there is anything I want to point out to you regarding your humility push. Ask Me if you missed the mark during the day, or if there is anything you should do differently, or anything specific I want you to do the following day, etc.

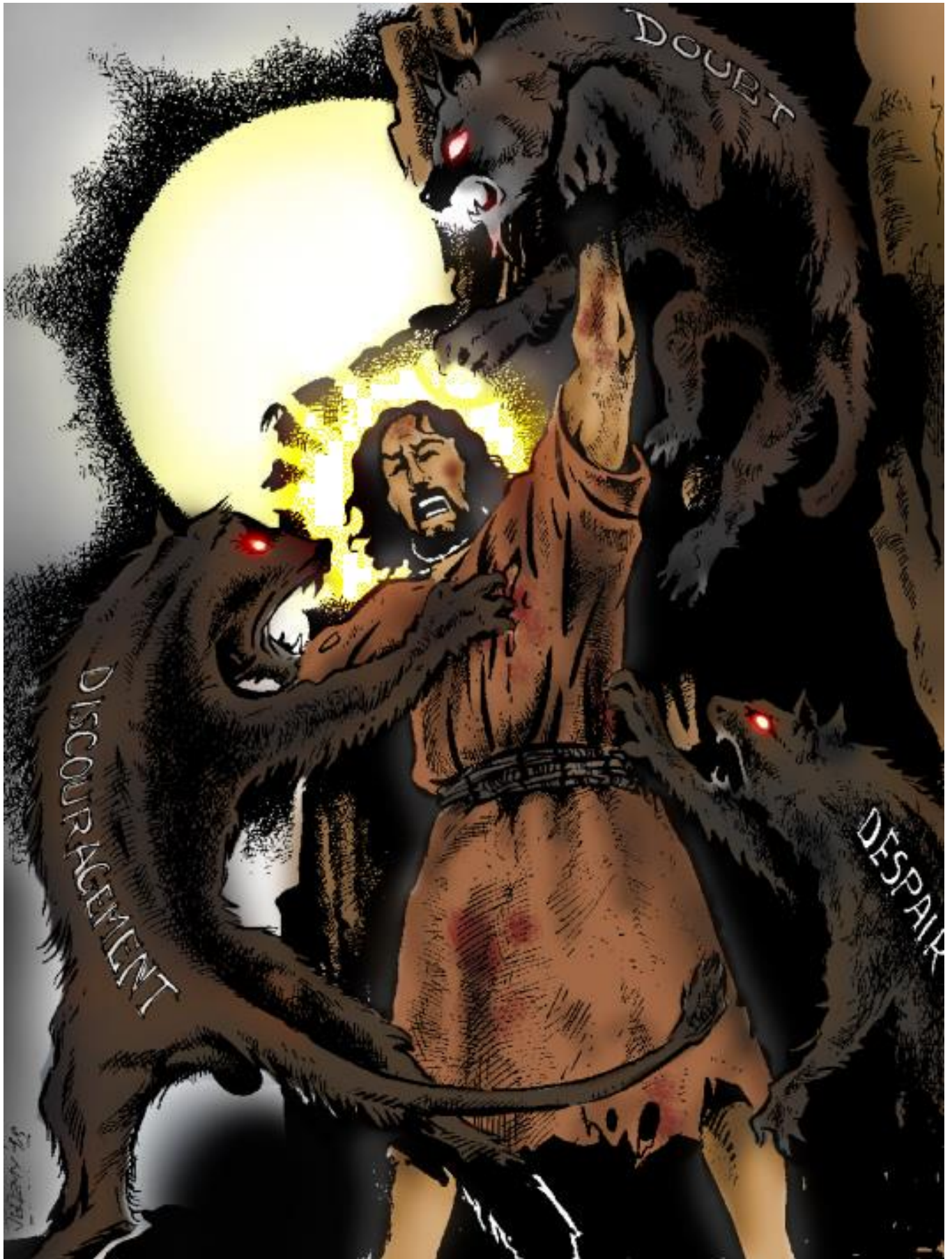
These two daily times to check in with Me on your humility level do not need to be long sessions of hearing from Me in prophecy. They can be short! Ask Me while you are in bed, or while you're getting dressed for the day, or tag it on at the tail end of your praise time or prayer vigil, but make them definite. Stop, quiet your spirit, and ask Me the definite question, wherever you are, or

no matter what else you're doing. Ask Me what I want you to do that day, and how you fared that day.

It's a simple practice, but one well worth your while to make a habit.--Just like brushing your teeth! In fact, you can ask Me these questions while brushing your teeth if you like. As you make this a routine practice, I'll show you more and more. I'll fine-tune your "humble walk" and draw you in ever so much closer to Me. I'll be deeper inside you, like never before--so close, so intimate, so one with you, and you with Me. You'll walk right in step with Me every moment of every day. You won't fall or falter, because I will be holding you up.

And I'll tell you a little secret: This is how I was able to walk in humility when I was on Earth. This little habit I have described to you of checking in with My Father on My "humility level" twice a day--in the morning and before I retired at night--was what did the trick. I had the gift of humility, just as you can have the gift of humility, but the flesh wars against the humble way. My flesh was no different; it also warred against the gift of humility that was Mine.

As I carried on My public ministry, I found I had to be desperate with My Father as to how to rise above this warring of My flesh against My Spirit, for the temptations to pride were strong. It was after the marriage at Cana, when I performed My first outstanding public miracle (John 2:1-11), that I asked My Father for direction regarding My humility, and He gave Me this little plan, this simple routine, this good habit to establish in My life. It took a little time to get the habit down pat, but with persistence and the help of My heavenly helpers, I soon got it down, and it carried Me through the rest of My earthly life. ⁽³⁷⁾



My Battle in the Wilderness (Mat. 4:1-11, Luk. 4:1-13)

Come, let Me tell you of My fight. When I was out there in the wilderness all that time, it was a battle royal with the Evil One. All Hell was let loose on Me. Satan fought with every evil thing, and every thought, and every evil doubt he could find to hurl at Me, to try to get Me to give up. He tried absolutely every single one in the book.

I battled as I was buffeted about with giants of doubt flying overhead! Yes, the Tempter came to Me in the wilderness--the wilderness of My mind--and he let loose all his wild beasts of doubts! Monsters surrounded Me on every side, in an attempt to devour and destroy Me. There were vicious attacks on every side. I was tempted by Satan and was with the wild beasts out there in the wilderness. These were the beasts I had to fight off. These were the beasts I had to rebuke. These were the beasts I had to gain victory over--the beasts of doubts!

First it started out subtly, and I didn't even realize they were doubts, these beasts that surrounded Me. They seemed harmless, but then as he tried to lure Me, as Satan tempted Me, I saw the potential; I saw where these doubts could lead, should I accept them. I saw they would only grow. I saw that if I would have accepted them, they would only have grown into wild beasts--wild beasts of doubts that would have devoured and destroyed Me. So I fought! I fought and I battled and tried to ward them off. I fought long and I fought hard and My strength grew weak.

I had not fallen, but I was growing weak, because I was being buffeted about on every side. It was My testing time, and the Tempter was let loose upon Me. Then I realized that I could no longer fight on in My human strength. I realized that I had to have a greater power to win this victory. I had not given in. I had not bade them stay with Me. I did not want to accept these beasts of doubts. But in My flesh, I could not muster up the strength to fight on.

Yes, I was tempted in all points just like you, yet without sin. Without sin, because I did not give in, I did not give up. Without sin, because although the doubts and discouragement and despair were hitting Me from every side, I did not accept them. I was tempted to, but I did not accept them. ⁽³⁸⁾

I didn't know how long I was going to be there. I was given no time frame, nor was I told, "You will only be there 40 days, and at the very end of that time, when You are at Your weakest and faint from hunger, the Devil is really going to lay into You and try You and tempt You in order to test Your limits and completely break You. But don't worry, if You can withstand at that point, You will come out the victor." Had I known that, My desert sojourn would not have been the test My Father intended it to be. It would not have succeeded in testing Me to My limits and breaking Me to the point that I was totally and utterly desperate and at the end of My rope, and the victory would not have been as triumphant.

Every moment of every day that I spent there in that desert place I was badgered and hounded by the Enemy. He was relentless and he didn't give up taunting Me. It seemed as if it'd never end. I knew in My heart that eventually it had to, because I knew My destiny was not to die in the desert. But nevertheless, the time I spent there felt like an eternity, because I didn't know when it would be up and I would be delivered.

Had I known exactly when and how it would end, I would not have been as desperate. I would have been counting the days until My deliverance and biding My time, waiting for it all to end. I probably wouldn't have been as relentless in My counterattacks on the Devil. I needed that time of testing to develop a perfect hatred for him, and to learn his tactics. I needed to know how it felt as a human to be badgered by the Enemy. As you see, My Father, in His wisdom, hid the details from Me, as it was My final preparation before My ministry started in earnest. That experience is what I needed for My preparation.

So it is with any battle you go through. Tests, trials, and battles are all for a purpose. I intend for them to teach you, to strengthen you, to make you a better fighter, just as My time in the desert did for Me.

Put yourself in My shoes for a moment, and imagine that you are where I was. Imagine being in the desert for 40 days, fasting. Imagine relentless harassment by the Enemy that does not cease, day or night. Imagine continually counterattacking the Devil's lies and propaganda and seeing him return again and again for another round. Imagine the hopelessness I was tempted with and the feelings of discouragement and despair when at the dawn of every new day I was faced with another round with the Tempter. I used everything I had and the Enemy still came back for more. I felt forsaken and forgotten. I felt frustrated that no matter what I did, no matter what tack I took, no matter what weapon of My arsenal I used, the Devil came back to dish out more. ⁽³⁹⁾

It was a battle royal, and it was a test. It was a test that I had to pass. I had to go through it, so I would know how you, My precious ones, are feeling. That time there in the wilderness, that time of testing, I thought it would never end. When I realized to what scale these monsters of doubts were capable of growing, I heard My Father's voice. It was still, and it was small, but crystal clear, as He said to Me, "Son, I am fighting for You, that Your faith fail not." That is all I heard, in one distinct moment, and that voice gave Me the courage to carry on.

As I heard His voice, I fell to My knees and I cried out with the loudest cries I ever uttered in My entire life until that time! I fell down weeping and crying and pleading to My Father with all that was within Me! I fell down in utter desperation and asked Him to please deliver Me from these attacks of doubts that were plaguing Me on every side.

I made a decision, and that decision was that I wanted to fight! I wanted to go for it! I wanted to stand! I wanted deliverance! Up until that time, I was on the brink. Up until that time I was still in the valley of decision. I hadn't sinned yet, because I hadn't decided, so Satan was trying hard to sway Me. He fought hard to win Me. Yes, he wanted to convert Me.

But in that moment, when I cried out for help with all that was within Me, it was done. I made the decision to say yes. I cried out to My Father with strong tongues and pleading, saying, "Deliver Me this day! Fill Me with Your power, that I may fight, that I may stand strong in Your might and be delivered! I don't want this way! I don't accept these doubts! Give Me Your strength, and take them away!"

It was from that desperation, from that decision to yield My all, from that plea for deliverance that My eyes were opened. It was from that deliverance that I was able to find renewed strength, because My Father heard and He answered. My Father was there all the time. He was waiting and ready, but I had to decide. I had to choose. I had to reach out and receive help from His hand. It was from that deliverance that there came the words, "Get thee hence, Satan! Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve!" As soon as I called on My Father to help Me, in that instant I was able to avail Myself of the truth of His promise.

My Father's voice had been heard, and I won the fight. In that moment, I got on the road to victory--many victories. Yes, to many victories, for there were many battles to come and many victories to be won. ⁽⁴⁰⁾

I share this with you to encourage you that number one, I have been through what you go through when faced with a relentless battle that never seems to cease. It will eventually cease, My loves. It will eventually stop, just as My 40 days in the wilderness ended.

Number two, never underestimate the effect you are having on the Enemy in a battle. No matter how strong he seems, each blow you give him does render him a bit weaker. It may not appear that way at first, but trust Me, it does weaken him, until finally he will give up and leave. That is what happened with Me in the wilderness: All throughout those 40 days that we duked it out, he was getting pummeled--he just didn't let on.

This is what can be deceptive about the Enemy. Remember, he is a deceiver and a liar (John 8:44), and just because he seems to keep coming back at you doesn't mean you aren't landing some blows that really hurt him. I found that out at the very end, when as I said, I only uttered five words and he'd had it and quit. It was then that I realized that all along I had been having an effect on him; he just wasn't going to give Me the satisfaction of knowing that My weapons were breaking him down and defeating him.

Number three, because I have been touched with the feelings of your infirmities, know that I understand what you are going through and will be with you each step of the way. I have been where you are, through the darkest nights and the most discouraging days. I have felt weak and helpless against the Enemy's attacks. I have hit him with all that I was worth, and still felt no progress was made. I have been in your shoes, through the most trying of circumstances, and yet I was delivered, as you will be.

So next time you find yourself in the thick of the battle, when it seems it will never end, and you are doing all you can to fight the Enemy and still feel progress is not made, think of Me and My time in the wilderness when I fought the Devil for 40 days. Even as My Father was with Me during that time, so will I be with you. Even though it felt as though My time in the wilderness was never going to end, it eventually did. And even though I felt that I wasn't making progress in dealing the Enemy a blow that would knock him out, he was weakening, and eventually was defeated and the battle was over. ⁽⁴¹⁾

The Father allowed that time of testing. It was necessary. I had to go through it, as I was about to embark on the greatest mission of all mankind. If I could not have licked the Devil then, in that wilderness, I would not have been able to go on to complete My life's mission that was ahead.

Just think, if he could have stopped Me then, you would not be here! So he fought hard and long, and he fought in very subtle ways. He used Scripture in very sly ways, intertwined in a tapestry of deceit and lies, carefully woven together with logical, reasonable, understandable, sensible reasoning that appeared to be good and true. Satan knows the Word, yet he twists, he contorts and he connives. He adds a touch of truth with the lie in hopes that he can lure.

It looked so good. The things he hit Me with and offered Me were very appealing, and I was tempted! Just think, all the kingdoms of the world! That was an inviting offer! Here I was, the son of a humble carpenter. I was grieved with the poverty and injustice and the extreme conditions of the world around Me. My people were poor and persecuted under Roman rule. All about Me was a world of injustice and problems--so many problems. The thought of all the world's riches and what I could do with them was very tempting. Maybe I could have made things better. Certainly it would have solved the financial difficulties. I could have used these riches to sort things out. That's what the Devil told Me, and it did look inviting.

But Satan knew I really wouldn't quite go for that right off, because after all, My Father's riches were far greater. So he had to try to get Me to doubt My Father, to doubt He really would help Me and come to My aid. Satan tried to get Me to think My Father had shut Me out of the halls of Heaven and abandoned Me on Earth. After all, Satan told Me, if My Father had abandoned Me and had disowned Me, then why not take this next offer of all these riches of the kingdoms of the Earth? Pretty sly trick.

Here I was in My fleshly body, and life was sometimes hard. I had grown up seeing the poverty and despair of the people, the plight of the poor, and the oppression of the Roman rule. Things around Me were pretty desperate. Now think about this. Think about what Satan was offering Me--all the kingdoms of the world! That was a pretty big job offer! You talk about System jobs--that was the humdinger! I could have ruled it all! It was tempting, very tempting. But deep in My heart, the voice came to Me, "It is better to eat herbs than a stalled ox, or to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

During that time I spent in the wilderness having it out with Satan himself, I learned where the real battle was. The battle was in My heart and mind; it was over My very soul, and the Tempter was using these doubts to attack Me. For one, he was trying hard to get Me to doubt My Father's blessing and His riches. He was trying to get Me to doubt My inheritance. He sought to slay Me through so many doubts. But by crying out in desperation to My Father, and in asking Him to fill Me with His Truth, I was able to clearly see His plan. I was able to see that all the wealth of the world was nothing.

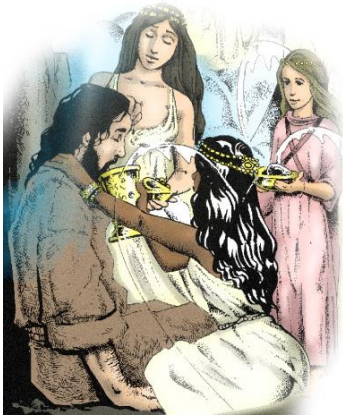
I did not know it at first, but as soon as I made the decision, as soon as I said yes to My Father, as soon as I cried out to Him in total desperation, pleading for deliverance from the doubts that were trying to take hold of My mind and My spirit, He delivered Me. And it was from that time on that My eyes were opened, and I could begin to see more clearly the true battle that was raging. I could see the hypocrisy in it all, that all these riches and kingdoms of the Earth were going to come to nothing. They were nothing but a facade, hiding the heinous reality behind them. My eyes were opened from that point.

And do you know what happened? Do you know what My Father did to help Me continue on? In His infinite mercy and all-encompassing Love, He sent His angels to minister to Me. Oh, that was such sweet relief! It was sweet relief and a strengthening for the days ahead. It was the strengthening I needed for My ministry that was about to begin.

The angels came and we had sweet communion. They poured out the Word upon Me. How do you think they ministered to Me? Did you ever think about it? They ministered to Me in body and spirit, and they fed Me the thing I most desperately needed. They fed Me the Word from the very hand of God. Yes, they brought Me the pure, unadulterated Word from My Father above.

I feasted on it! I drank it in! They showered Me with it from head to toe, and My healing began. Yes, My healing. Fighting it out with Satan like that in the wilderness took its toll. It was a long, hard fight, and I had to be restrengthened, re-envisioned and refilled. That was the beginning of a whole new life for Me. From that time on I realized that I had to always take enough time for rest and refilling, that I had to have My Father's Word, for that was the source of My power. From that time on I began to always take those moments to get away, to rise early in the morning if I had to, and go out to a quiet place and receive this strengthening from Heaven.

That is when My ministry really began. All the years prior to that were my preparation. Although I already had a measure of My Father's Spirit and great power, this time of temptation, fighting these battles and winning the victory over doubts there in the wilderness, brought forth a great decision, which resulted in this deliverance. I overcame! I fought and I won!



When I was in the wilderness, at times it seemed the battle would not end. The battle was fierce, and I was tempted to give up. But through it all, and through My deliverance, I was able to receive even greater power. I was free from the hindrances of Satan as I was thrust out in a new wave of witnessing that the world had never known before.

Yes, I was delivered there in the wilderness. I had to get desperate. I had to fight the battle of doubts, and I had to lick the Devil right then and there, or I would not have been able to continue on. And Satan was fighting hard! He was trying to stop My ministry, My testimony. He was trying to destroy Me and you and the people of this world. He knew if he could stop Me then and there, he would win the battle of the Earth.

It was a testing time and a purging time. My ministry and My mission were so great that I needed to be purified. I would not have been able to continue on had I not been. The stakes were too high. I could not have doubts plaguing My mind in the days ahead. Therefore, I had to take a stand. I had to pass all those tests. I could not escape the tests, for I am your High

Priest and I am touched with the feeling of your battles, your trials. I had to be touched, so I could stand here today with conviction to fight for you. But I passed! I passed, and I am here to tell about it. I am here to fight for you.

When I made that decision to desperately call out to My Father with all that was within Me, He sent His angels to minister to Me. They ministered to Me well. They ministered to Me the Word, and through that Word I carried on. That was My secret weapon. That is the only thing that I could fire back at Satan that would defeat him every time. It did then and it does now, for he hates it. He cannot stand it! He squirms at the very thought of the Word. He begins to shrivel up and vanish at the very utterance of it.

My children, your warfare is not carnal, but it is spiritual, so you must fight in spirit. You must not try to fight in carnal ways. The war of the worlds must be fought and won in the spirit. Everybody's struggle is a spiritual warfare, even those who do not know Me, even the struggles you see all around you in the world. The war for this world is a spiritual warfare; therefore you must fight it in spirit.

You seek to solve your problems in a physical way, but you must fight and win in spirit first. You must fight with spiritual weapons first, for they are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. Mighty! Mighty are they! And you have but to reach out your hand and receive. Receive the spiritual weapons, avail yourself of them, and the doubts and the struggles and the uncertainty will flee.

I received the Word there in the wilderness and I was strengthened. I wielded it hard and fast right back at the Devil, and he had to flee. I had to win that battle, just as you, too, must win the battle.

While there on the mount, I called out to My Father, and He filled Me with His Word, and Satan did flee. And as I began to quote the Word, I was strengthened for the battles ahead. It was My only salvation. From that time on, I had to stay filled up with My Father's promises. The battles grew stronger, but I too, grew stronger, because as I obeyed and as I received the Word, lived in the Word and quoted the Word, I was able to keep My victory.

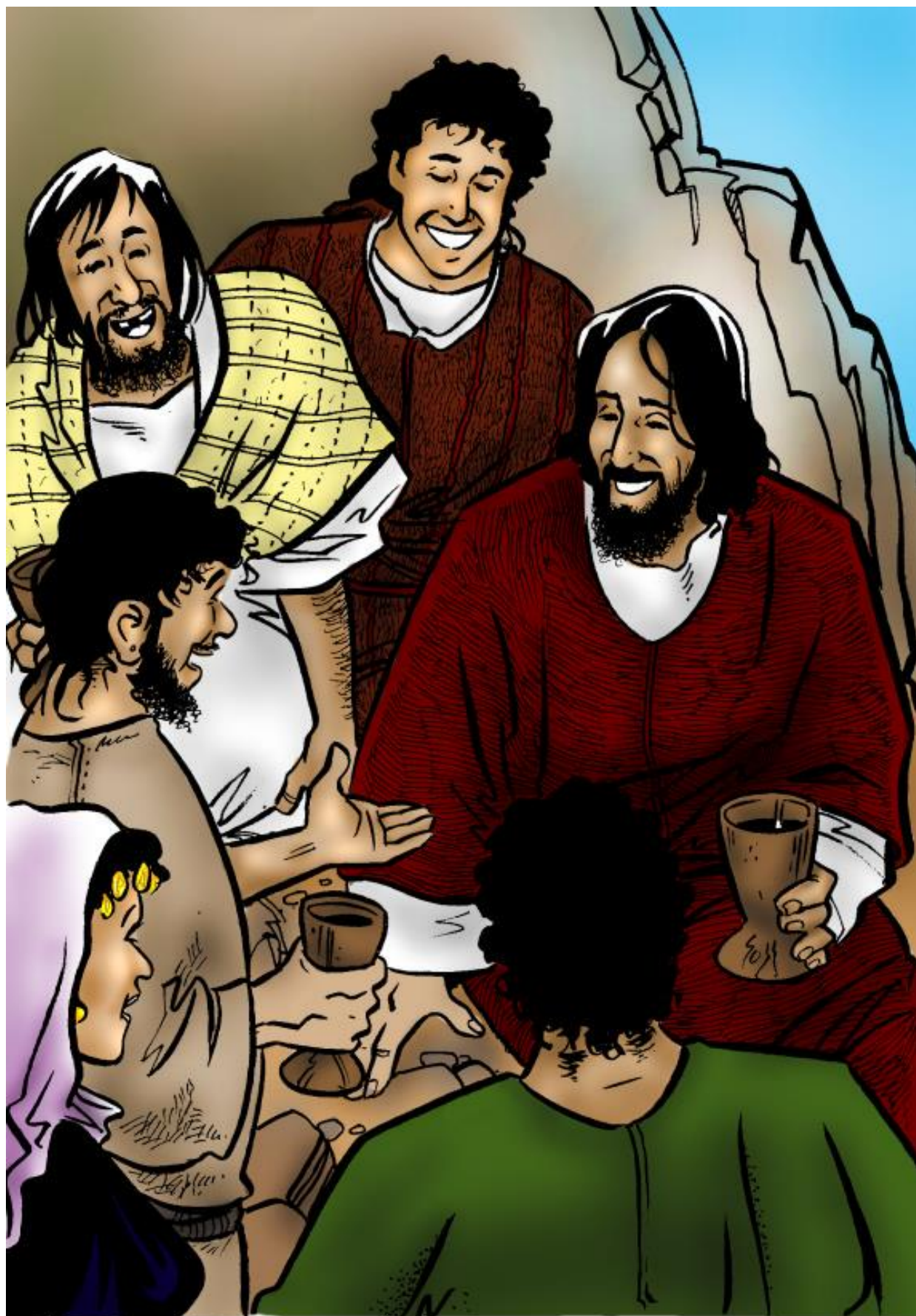
The victory that overcame the world was My faith in the Word. I overcame even the death of the cross and I am risen. You, too, can overcome the valley of despair by receiving this power.

I had to keep quoting the Word. My faith came, it grew, as I lived in and quoted the Word. As I walked the shores of Galilee, as I healed the sick and tended to the ragged wounds of the lost and the weary, as I loved the woman at the well, as I healed the daughter of Jairus, as I cast out devils, as I raised Lazarus from the dead and brought down miracles and signs and wonders from on high, each time, each of these victories was won through the Word. It was the Word that I quoted. It was the Word that gave Me the power. It was the Word that kept me free from doubts. It was the Word that inoculated Me against the lies of Satan. Staying pumped up with My Father's Word gave Me power to win the victory each and every time.

After My initial victory in the wilderness on the eve of My ministry, I continued to pass through test after test. The tests did not stop. The fiery darts of Satan never ceased to be flung at Me. But I was always able to win the victory, because I wielded My secret weapon. I wielded the Word. I quoted the Word, I banked on the Word, I fought back with the Word, and I overcame the world through the Word. It was through My faith in the Word. As I began to take even the beginning steps in living the Word, My faith grew; it flourished and continued on.

And it all began with My initial deliverance from doubts that time on the mount, in the wilderness, as I grappled in hand-to-hand combat with Satan himself. That battle, that victory of calling out to My Father, was the beginning process to set My faith in motion. And I grew through the Word. As I listened, as I received, and as I gave it out, I grew in faith. Faith to turn the water into wine grew into greater faith to bring down greater miracles, as I continued on.

It was not that the Devil never hit Me with doubts again. He tried, he fought hard, but it was My living and quoting and staying filled up on the Word that made the difference. The Word was My victory. It was My only hope, and it never failed to see Me through--just as it is your only hope. It will be your victory, and it will never fail to see you through. So live in it, swim in it, claim it, and revel in it.⁽⁴²⁾



~ PART FOUR ~

My Public Ministry Begins

I know how it feels to step out into the unknown. It's just plain scary at times. I felt that way when I launched out into My public ministry. I had My Father's promises, I had guaranteed help from Heaven, and My Father had given Me ample inner peace and faith that now was the time, but still it was scary.

It was tough for Me to leave My familiar surroundings, My mother and My siblings and cousins whom I loved. It was difficult to step out of what had become My "comfort zone" into something new. ⁽⁴³⁾

When I launched out in the days of My earthly ministry, I had no earthly shepherds to look to. My Father above and My earthly parents had poured into Me. They had prepared Me, and the time came when I was to move on to a new phase of My life.

There were many times that I felt those around Me did not care, that they did not listen, or were not willing to take correction. I too felt the burden and the strain and the loneliness of leadership, of shepherding; but it was in those times I learned to lean on My Father, to draw strength from Him, and I found faith to carry on.

I passed many long and lonely hours and was tempted by Satan time and again, wondering if it was really worth it all. When My poor bungling babes, and even My most trusted veterans, seemed aloof, irresponsible, distant, and not pulling the load, this was a test for Me. I was a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief--sometimes being tempted to wonder if they would ever catch on. I was tempted many times with an overwhelming feeling of "What is the use?" But this compelled Me to look up, to lean heavily on My Father above. ⁽⁴⁴⁾

Rising a great while before day, I went out into a solitary place, and there prayed. I needed that time alone. I needed that time between Me and My Father--for refreshing, for clarity of thought, heart and spirit, for those were busy days. I was surrounded by My team, who needed so much care, love and training. There was always so much to teach them. ⁽⁴⁵⁾

Some of My original disciples were unlearned, some were scholars, but few of them knew about Me and the ways of My Spirit when they started out. They all had to learn about the ways of My Spirit--not according to book knowledge, but according to the spirit of love. ⁽⁴⁶⁾

They were fun, I enjoyed them! They were wonderful folks. Each one was special, each one was different. Some were simple, some were quite bright and clever, others were talented--special people, I'd say, just like the special people that surround you. Each one had his own mind, his own will, his own heritage and background that made him unique, special and different.

Learning to shepherd and care for them and lead them was a challenge for Me--wooing them, winning them, understanding them, convincing them, cajoling them, staying a step ahead and leading them, encouraging them to follow, even though most of the time I realized that they didn't understand where we were going.

It was a great learning experience for Me, as well as a time of My biggest ministry while on Earth in the flesh. But in order to endure and to perform the role that I was called to play during that time, it was imperative that I had those little times away, those little breaks where I could get strengthened, where I could look down the road. I needed times when I could step back from the face-to-face, hands-on care of those around Me and the immediate situations that I had to deal with continually throughout the day while in action with My team, traveling around witnessing, laying the groundwork for all that was to come in the future. ⁽⁴⁷⁾

I was a great teacher and My disciples revered My Words. They respected Me and loved Me. However, My Words and My shepherding were not the only things I provided for them. I gave them My heart, I gave them My time, I gave them My friendship. The Bible doesn't record all the times we just enjoyed each other's company.

We had such great times--times of relaxation, times when we would tell stories; times when we would laugh; times when we would talk about their families; the things we liked; the things we wanted to do; our dreams, our aspirations. It was during those times spent together that we grew closer. They saw that I had not come to Earth only to speak My truth and message, but I had come to get to know them, to find out about their hearts, what they thought, how they felt, and to show them that I, too, was a man of similar passions.

My disciples saw that I was someone who could understand their own lacks, failings, and weaknesses. I saw them, understood them, and they were My friends, those I had entrusted with continuing the mission that I had come to Earth to fulfill. ⁽⁴⁸⁾

I quickly learned that it was going to take a little time. My mission was not going to come about in one swift fell swoop of an overnight change. I found that things were not as I had expected. There I was, so eager to see things change and to win others into the Heavenly realm. But My Father, in His loving wisdom, had a plan, and we're all a part of this plan. I had to come to the realization that I, too, needed to learn further precious lessons.

And so I continued, and I learned through the things that I suffered. I learned through My obedience, as you also will learn through your obedience unto Me. As I kept going, I learned that I could carry Heaven in My heart, and that I could spread it to others. I went, and I learned that Heaven was in Me, a part of Me, and no man could ever take it away. I went, and I learned that My Father's loving hand would not fail, could not fail. I kept on, and I kept obeying, and the glory of Heaven was made manifest in Me.

As I went, I learned patience, for things were not always as I had expected.

Peter, James, John, Andrew and the others didn't always catch on as quickly as I would have liked. They didn't understand at first when I tried to share with them about the great love in My heart, the great love of Heaven, the great love that I wanted to give. I tried to help them, but they needed time to be able to grasp it all. I tried to explain to them about the glory and the splendor of Heaven. I tried to help them see that they, too, could have it in their hearts, but again, it took some time. They couldn't always see quite as quickly as I had hoped. Each one caught on at a different pace. Each one progressed differently. So I had to go slow. I had to be sensitive to each individual, to each need. I had to handle each tender heart accordingly.

It was a test of My patience and My love. I found that although My Words were important, the living sample of My love was more easily understood. Many times I just needed to take the time to love them, to show the way.

So I kept on, and I learned how to be a plodder. I learned how to take things a step at a time. I learned faith. I learned how to look up to My Father above. I learned how not to give up. I learned many things through that which I suffered.

I missed the constant peacefulness and tranquility that I had known in Heaven, but I soon learned it was right there in My heart all the time. It was always with Me--I just had to tap in and avail Myself of the peace that passed all understanding. I felt the burden and the press of the people. I heard the noise and felt the confusion, the worry and the tension. It was so real, and I was right there in the middle of it. I felt their anxiety, I felt their pain. Through it all, I was touched with the feelings of their infirmities, and I learned compassion and tolerance.

Often I wanted to be able to just snap My fingers and set all things in order. I could have called down all the legions of Heaven to set things straight. But it didn't work that way, and My Father didn't plan it that way. He knew that I needed to learn, and that I would learn, and that the others would eventually learn too, and come around to being set free and following closer. He knew that the lessons I was learning and the choices I was making, and others, too, were of far greater importance and would bear far greater fruit. He had a plan and purpose and it was all being accomplished.

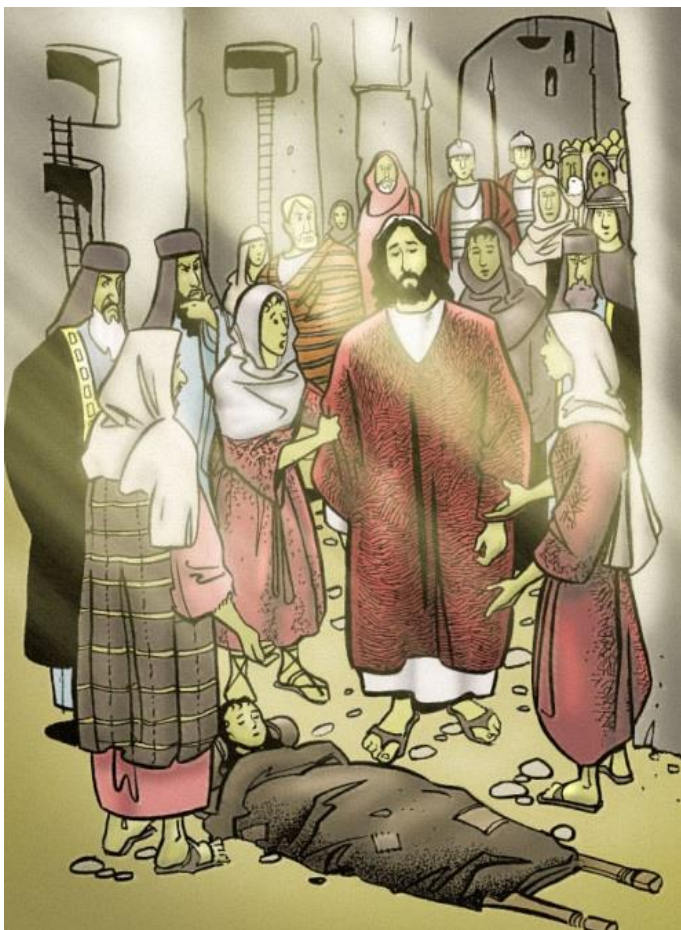


With each passing minute, with each test of My patience and each test of My faith, I was learning, and I was becoming what the Father wanted Me to become. I was being groomed for greater things ahead. I was being prepared to face the greatest decision of My life. My Father knew the importance of this great decision. He knew how much was hinging on My weak shoulders, yet He was so lovingly preparing Me, teaching Me, guiding Me, strengthening Me. And the others were learning. They, too, were becoming what He wanted them to become. All things were working together for our good.

I was learning how to pray. With each situation, each difficulty that would arise, when I was tempted to lose My patience, lose My temper, lose My cool, when I didn't know what to do, I had no place to look but up--up to Heaven, up to My Father. And through it all He taught Me how to pray. Yes, I learned all these things when I went out from My bubble of love, this Heavenly abode. I had all the truth of Heaven within, and yet it took time to teach others. It took patience to love. It took wisdom to give. It took longsuffering to keep plodding along day by day.

In the days of My flesh when there was a task too big, too hard for human hands, I came to know the full power of My Father. I learned to lean on Him with all My heart and all My soul and all I had in Me, and in this leaning I found My strength.

I knew that Heaven was real. I knew the love of the Father. I knew the splendor of Heaven! This kept Me going, and it will keep you going too. It lived in My heart, and no problem was too big, no difficulty was too hard, no mountain was too high to take that away. As long as I kept My eyes on Heaven, I was sustained. As long as I looked to My Father, He gave the answers that I needed. ⁽⁴⁹⁾



I faced extreme, difficult conditions. Not only were My disciples and I living in very close quarters, but many times the extreme discomforts of living outdoors much of the time took a heavy toll on us physically. While living on the road, we often faced the uncertainty of not knowing where we would lay our heads at night, and this was difficult.

It was a fight and took concentrated effort on My part to find a place of quiet and rest where the crowds could not molest. Everywhere I walked, everywhere I went, I was in demand. I was in the limelight of the crowds who expected Me to pour out, or I had to fight off scoffers, scorners and those who would seek to do Me harm. This often was draining, and I was sometimes tempted to fall under the weight of it all. I lived in extreme conditions on every side. I felt the pressure in the confines of My close fellowship with the 12, and from the multitudes to whom we ministered. ⁽⁵⁰⁾

When I was faced with the crowds and the multitudes, I knew I could not solve the problems. How was I ever going to come up with enough food to feed 5,000 people from a mere five loaves and two fishes? That was an impossible task! But I did not worry about it! I could not worry about it. I only had to accept, by saying, "Yes, Father, You are right, I cannot do this. I cannot, but You can." And My Father did! He did what I, in My Own strength, could not do. (See John 5:19.)

And you know, I did not feed those 5,000 by organizing fishing boats and sending My disciples out to catch fish first thing. I fed the 5,000 by quiet trust and full assurance, knowing that what My Father had promised, He was also able to perform. All I did was look up and cast My burden on My Father. He sustained Me, and He

sustained the crowds, and 5,000 ate that day. But I had to truly trust first. I had to take the stand of faith first for My Father to do the miracle. Afterward came the organization and distribution of the goods, but the quiet trust and the stand of faith came first.

The situations and the problems and the burdens and the pressures of the people about Me were many--the aches and the pains and the agonies of the people, the cries about Me of, "It can't be done!" Many of My followers were tossed and tumbled about with doubts and discouragement on every side. I heard the cries and the groanings, and they weighed heavily upon Me. The problems at times seemed insurmountable--and they were! It was too hard for human hands. Yet that is when I learned to truly trust, to truly lean, and to cast My cares upon My Father. That is when I learned not to settle for the human, but to trust in the divine. ⁽⁵¹⁾

In My time of launching out, during those precious years, I learned to avail Myself to the full of My Father's close shepherding. Those times, those trials, those temptations that passed My way served only to drive Me into a greater seeking, a closer communication with My Father than I had ever known.

It was through all this--through My testing, and being thrust out on My Own--that I grew and I overcame. It was during this precious time that I received direct, personal guidance from My Father's hand. I received direct, pure, and personal guidance, direct shepherding from Above. ⁽⁵²⁾

I faced many, many long lonely hours, and I longed to have that direct, face-to-face, personal contact with My Father above. I longed for those days of Heaven I once knew, where I was protected within Our bubble of counsel and fellowship, and where I had always received direct, loving oversight. I even came to the point, in a lonely moment, when I felt so forsaken and I was tempted, asking My Father, "Why have You forsaken Me?", for I felt the pressures and the burdens and the loneliness of leadership.

For it was through all these testings, it was through this precious time that I grew into full stature. It was through all these experiences and times of loneliness, when I was tempted to despair, that My direct link to Heaven was established. It was during this time that I was put to the test, that I was able to lean wholly on My Father above, and in leaning, find My strength. It was in those lonely, dark hours that I found in all My leaning that His strength was enough to see Me through.

It was out of what seemed like deep, dark experiences that I discovered the power I had at My fingertips, and not only at My fingertips, but within Me. It was through these trying times that I grew to learn that all this was necessary to make Me into what I needed to be. For had I not passed through these testings--had any of the circumstances been different--I would not have been so desperate to call on My Father. I never would have learned what He was able to do through Me, through My frail fleshly state. I

learned that in My flesh I could do nothing, but in the power of the Spirit, through these deep experiences and trying times, as I called on My Father, I was able to avail Myself of His full power.

I became flesh that I might fight for you, that I might understand you, that I might be your Intercessor, that I might be your Good Shepherd.⁽⁵³⁾

My whole life on Earth was what taught Me compassion. Each one I taught, each one I healed, each one whose life I touched, I felt their pain, I experienced their suffering, I understood the battles they faced.

I couldn't live as a blind man from birth. I couldn't be the woman with the issue of blood who endured great pain and agony of the flesh. I couldn't be the leper who had endured years of being an outcast and watched in agony as his flesh slowly died and fell away. I couldn't watch My child die before My eyes and feel the hopelessness of being unable to prevent it. I could not have lived all these things in just one body. But what gave Me the compassion and the understanding, what made Me your High Priest Who is touched with the feelings of your infirmities and was in all points tempted as you are, is that the Father allowed Me to supernaturally experience the pain, the suffering, and the struggles in each life I touched (Hebrews 4:15).

I couldn't actually live through them all in real time. My physical body could not have borne that and still fulfilled My purpose on Earth. But I was allowed to feel each person's loss, to feel their sorrow and suffering, and to understand, so that I would have the motivation to fulfill My task. Each experience helped to strengthen My conviction that following through with what My Father had commissioned Me to do was the only way to deliver you.⁽⁵⁴⁾

The Right Perspective Regarding My Flesh-and-blood Relations

When I was on Earth and I was full swing into My ministry, I had to seek My Father for the right attitude on how to interact and communicate with My earthly mother and father, and My brothers and sisters. I found that a prophet has no honor in his own land and among his own kinsmen (Mark 6:4). The familiarity was strong with those who watched Me grow up, and when the Holy Spirit descended upon Me and I received the anointing for My ministry, it was still difficult for those who had known Me all my life to look beyond the flesh. They had always thought of Me in a certain way, as a lowly carpenter and nothing more. Their unbelief was great, and because of this I couldn't do mighty works among them (Matthew 13:53-58).

I tried to deliver the message to My Own kin, but when it became apparent they were not going to change, I had to seek My Father for the right perspective regarding My flesh-and-blood relations. He helped Me see that "My mother and brethren are those who hear the Word and do it" (Luke 8:21). When I came to this realization, I was then able to establish My priorities. There were times when I simply had to tell My relatives that I had to be about My Heavenly Father's business.

As My Father told Me, I tell you today: If you don't love Me far more than your own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters—even more than your own life—you cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:26). And to love Me far more than all these others is to put Me first in every area of your life. It's to do My will—to preach My Gospel and be about My work, rather than spending too much of your time socializing with those who have no intention of doing My will, or who want to pull you away from doing it.

With few exceptions, those of your flesh and blood will be a pull in the wrong direction. Mine were, and in getting My priorities straight, I had to often put off seeing them, as you can see in My Word. My mother and brethren came to Me one day while I was preaching to a large crowd, and My disciples told Me that they wanted to speak with Me. I responded that My mother and My brethren were those who hear the Word of God and do it, and I went about My more important work of preaching the message I was sent to preach (Mark 3:31-35).

It's not that I didn't love My mother and My brethren. I loved them dearly. But I knew that what was most important, even more important than My fleshly ties, was obeying My Father in Heaven, doing His will, proclaiming His truth, and fulfilling the mission I came to Earth for.⁽⁵⁵⁾

Standing Out from Society

During the 40 days I spent in the wilderness (Mark 1:13), I fought one battle that was not recorded. One of the things I had to fight the hardest during that time was the realization that as I stepped out to serve My Heavenly Father and fulfill My destiny, I would be placing My earthly family in an awkward position. I knew My mother would stand by Me in the end, but I also knew that she would be torn. I knew My brothers would have to turn away from Me in order to save face in their community. And I knew My mother would be torn between what they complained about concerning Me and what she knew was God's will in My life.

It is not unusual for only one or maybe two members of a family to rise above the norm and be different and unique. I often have allowed this type of situation to sift My children. I was sifted in the same manner, so I understand how difficult and trying it is. I know how to overcome, because I fought this discouragement in the desert, and with My Father's help I won. And now I wish to give you that strength of vision as well.

In the wilderness I cried out to My Father to renew My vision and bolster My faith. I asked Him to show Me what would happen if I yielded to My brothers and the way they were pulling Me. He did. He showed Me clearly. One was a path that led to

eternal life for My brothers and all of My loved ones, including you. The other was a life of clay, being one of the ants in the anthill, not making enough difference to be remembered for more than a generation after I died.⁽⁵⁶⁾

Honor Your Parents

Even though I had difficulties with some of My family, others of them came through and supported Me. At times My mother did not understand why I did not give her more honor, the kind of honor that other sons bestowed on their mothers. My mother did not understand why I did not honor her by being more of a support to her in the natural, as other sons were.

The care that sons gave to their mothers was a sign of their honor. So because I had to be about My Father's business, and was called to travel around in service to Him, I wasn't able to serve her and be there for her as she would have liked Me to. But because of the sacrifices she made in allowing Me to serve My Father in Heaven, she received greater honor from Him.

Honor your parents for their sacrifice in giving you to Me, even though they might not understand or totally agree with you on some things.

Strengthening a Family

My Own flesh family had to go through persecution with Me. They had to hear the accusations of My accusers. They witnessed the progression of My ministry, heard My words of truth, saw the miracles and healings and deliverances at the hand of My Father, all the way up to My persecution, betrayal, and execution. They suffered when I suffered because of their love for Me, but it was necessary so that they could be firmly convinced in their own mind that I was the Son of God. They were given the privilege of witnessing My persecution for their own sake, for their faith's sake, because no one else would have been crucified for the sins of the world, except He Who was destined to as the Son of God.

Persecution was a testimony to My flesh family that I was Who I said I was. It hurt them, it caused many troubles in their life, but in the end it strengthened their faith more than ever.⁽⁵⁷⁾

I Grew to Love the Fight

As I went around everywhere trying to do good, as I was faced with the need, My faith was tested. I continually had to look to My Heavenly Father for answers, for solutions, for leading and guidance, and this is what kept Me strong.

In the midst of battle was when My faith flourished and I grew in stature and in wisdom. I grew to love the battle, because I knew I was fighting for you—for your heart, for your soul, and for your life, and no price was too high to pay. I knew it was a battle worth fighting. I knew it was a battle for all eternity, a battle for keeps, and I knew the rewards were worth it all.

It was a battle for love, a battle for the right, a battle of the worlds. I was in the war of the worlds and I knew I was on the winning side. It was a battle between good and evil, a battle to defeat Satan and his horde of demons, and this drove Me to victory. I liked to fight the Enemy when I walked on the Earth, because I knew I was fighting for the right, the side that cannot lose. Each time I looked to My Father, with each victory won, I grew to love the fight. I liked defeating the Enemy.

When Satan would try his tricks of twisting My Father's Own words on Me, I loved to wield My spiritual weapons right back at him. I delighted in watching him turn tail and slither away in shame and disgrace, for he had to flee. It was a thrill to My heart every time the angels came and ministered unto Me, and this encouraged My faith.

As I kept My eyes on Heaven, I knew all of Heaven was on My side, and I could not fail as long as I did not give up. As long as I kept fighting, I knew I couldn't lose. It didn't matter what I was feeling, for I learned that feelings were not a proper gauge. My faith was fixed on Heaven, and this is what brought Me through.

As I looked on the multitudes, I knew it was worth it all—every test, every temptation, every battle, every trial. Just thinking about others, just thinking about you, made it worth it all, and I knew that My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the payoff—the glory that would be revealed in Me.

The thought of suffering in vain, of having to come to Earth and take on human flesh and give up all the glories of Heaven's reward if I did not run the race and win, was more than I could bear, and this realization helped Me to press on. Would I suffer so much in vain? Having come all that way, to give up would have been defeat—to quit just before final victory.

The mere thought of this gave Me courage to cry out to My Father, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done!" (Luke 22:42). At that point, in My flesh, I felt like giving up, but I knew I could not trust in My feelings. I knew in My heart what I had to do, and by calling on My Father for help, I received the strength to carry on, and His Spirit in Me carried Me through.

Yes, this was the secret to My victory, as it will be the secret to your victory—call on Me and ask Me to help you keep the vision. Keep your eyes on Heaven. Keep the heavenly vision. Live in the vision of Heaven and be strengthened. For as I knew My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the rewards ahead, so you, My children, can know the same (Romans 8:18). All that I have promised unto you I will perform, just as My Father has done for Me. As I am glorified in My Father, so you will be glorified in Me.

Therefore, be encouraged as I was encouraged when I walked on Earth. Walk on, knowing that there is a plan and that you have a purpose, a reason to live and a reason to fight. Let this thrill your hearts and cause you to hold on to Me, to stand up and be counted in spite of setbacks, to not let seeming failures get you down, but rather let them spur you to action as you glory in the battle, wielding the most powerful weapons this world has ever known as you defend the faith and answer Heaven's call! ⁽⁵⁸⁾

I Couldn't Let You Down

Another secret of My victory, what helped Me to keep the vision and press ahead to win victories and continue on in the fight, was when I looked around at the people that surrounded Me. Getting out among the crowds, being faced with the needy situations and having to fight the battles, was what spurred Me on to keep fighting and not give up.

I didn't give up!--Because of others, because of you, because I knew I could not let you down. And even though at times it looked like I was failing, I had to press on. I had to simply trust My Father above, knowing that He could not and would not fail. Knowing that your salvation was at stake was what kept Me trusting and kept Me desperate and militant in spirit, determined to not let go.

Had it just been for My Own sake, My Own victory, it would have been much more tempting to give up the fight. But every time I lifted My eyes and looked upon the multitudes, the needy souls, the hungry hearts, the sorrowful ones, the desperate and the destitute, those dying without answers--this was what compelled Me to fight on.

Knowing I had to fight for others' sakes was what compelled Me to put aside Satan's temptations to lean to personal, selfish desires and carnal lusts. As I lifted My eyes and looked upon others, their need was etched in My mind and burned in My heart and soul, and I felt that driving desire to fight and win and defeat Satan once and for all. I knew I was fighting for the lives and hearts and souls of men and women who were worth it all.

My children, if you would be strengthened to fight the battles at hand, I say lift up your eyes, look on the fields that are white and ready to harvest, and be encouraged, knowing that you hold in your hand the keys to freedom that can soothe their troubled minds, bring them peace and comfort and good cheer, heal their weary bodies, and set them free.

The need at hand, the lost and lonely around Me, drove Me and compelled Me to march on to victory. This is what made a fighter out of Me, willing to fight and die for you, that you might be free. When Satan tempted Me and offered Me all his worldly kingdoms, it was your need, the needs of the lost and dying world, that kept Me strong, so that I did not accept his offer, nor entangle Myself with the affairs of the world.

I say to you, My children, if you too would follow in My footsteps, if you would be strong, keep your eyes on Heaven. The only way the Devil can win is if you quit, if you give up, if you accept his lying vanities (Jonah 2:8; John 8:44). Therefore, be not entangled with the affairs of the world, as I did not entangle Myself with the affairs of this world, but look to Heaven. Hold on to your faith. Let it grow. Allow it to flourish by getting out and exercising it. Lift up your eyes and look on the fields. Get out and face the need. Give to others what I have given to you. ⁽⁵⁹⁾

Putting My Faith into Action

All through My life as a boy growing up on Earth, the Spirit was preparing Me and guiding Me. My faith was tested as a child. In My adolescence and on into My twenties, there were many tests I had to pass. All these experiences helped My faith to grow and prepared Me for yet bigger tests I would be faced with in the years to follow during My public ministry. Remember, I had to pass all the same tests that you have to pass. I had to go through the same as you; otherwise I would not be worthy to be called your High Priest. Otherwise I would not be able to fully understand you, empathize with you, and know the same feelings that you experience. There were no shortcuts for Me.

On the eve of launching out into the greatest part of My earthly ministry, I had to pass a big test in the wilderness. I had to defeat the Devil, who severely tempted Me with his "kingdoms of this world" scheme, the temptation of earthly riches and fleeting human power. He tempted Me with pride, with doubt, with hunger. Though I had a fierce time of it during those days and nights, with the help of My Father and His ministering angels, I pulled through. Those were special days there in the wilderness, for it was at that time that I committed Myself to stick to My calling.

It was out there in the wilderness that I, in effect, signed My "contract" to continue. That was when I renewed My oath of allegiance and subsequently received fresh vision, and that was when I received My new anointing for the public ministry I was about to begin. That was My time of renewal and of declaration when I reaffirmed to Heaven, and to the Devil as well, that I was going forward with the challenge to die for the sins of man.

Those days of testing were vicious, but I was soon to learn that those fierce battles during My time in the wilderness were not isolated, but they were the beginning tests to prepare Me for more tests of faith and the greater victories that would follow.

I know the thought of doing the impossible seems awesome through human eyes. I too was tempted when I faced impossible situations. As I progressed in My public ministry, when I began to fully realize all that would be expected of Me, there were times I felt like running away. In My carnal mind and way of thinking, I couldn't see how it would be possible to do some of the things that were

expected of Me--to call on the power of Heaven while encased in human flesh, to perform miracles on Earth, to work impossibilities in the sight of man. On the other hand, I knew there was nowhere to run, and I prayed to My Father to help Me hold on.

It was not long after My public ministry began that another big test came. You know how it is when you think you have an idea of what something is going to be like. You're about to experience something new; you might have heard about it or read about it, so you enter some new phase of your life thinking you're well aware of what to expect. Take having a baby, for example, or falling in love. You might have read up on it; maybe scores of others have told you about it and shared their own experiences with you, to where you think you have a pretty good handle on what it will be like when you experience the same. But then you find yourself in the middle of that experience and you discover it's much different than what you had expected. Well, that's what it was like for Me as I ventured out in My public ministry. In My carnal mind I thought I knew what to expect regarding My earthly life and ministry, but I soon found out that doing and experiencing were different than merely observing from afar.

As I stepped out into My new anointing, I found Myself surrounded with daunting tasks. The confines of the flesh, carnal thinking, and human emotions were a constant battle for Me, and I had to learn to cope and overcome. I was put to the test and found it necessary to demonstrate My faith often, to prove to the people that all things are possible with God. I came up against all sorts of surprises every day. Each experience was new and fresh, and each one taught Me a great deal--both about the physical world, as well as about the spiritual realities as seen through human eyes.

As I went about My business in those beginning days, I didn't expect the crowds to be so demanding right off. It wasn't until I was right in the middle of things that it dawned on Me that My ministry was going to snowball like it did. In just three short years, news of Me spread abroad. Little did I know from the day I performed that first miracle that things were going to develop so quickly.

Turning the Water into Wine

I'll never forget that day when I turned the water into wine. I had no idea My mother was going to call on Me like she did at that wedding in Cana. When she came and asked Me to do something about the wine, I felt put on the spot. I didn't "feel" prepared to perform a miracle, as is so often the case with human flesh. This was evident in My reply to My dear mother when I told her it wasn't My time. I as much as told her, "I'm not ready, Mom. What are you putting Me on the spot for, anyhow?" Bless her heart, even though I was lacking in confidence at that moment, she didn't lose faith in Me. She had complete trust that I was going to pull through. Her faith was so strong that she told the servants to get ready, to be prepared to do whatever I asked them to do.

As many of you have experienced by now, whenever a miracle is needed, most often you're on the spot! You find yourself in a tight corner, in the middle of an impossible situation or predicament. You don't know what on earth to do, so you're driven to seek My assistance--and boom--a miracle is born!

That's pretty much how it unfolded with Me right then. I was on the spot, I had to stretch My faith, and a miracle took place that day. The Spirit of My Father moved in Me, convicting My heart, and I'm thankful I didn't brush it aside. The need was there, and it was, in fact, My time.

From then on, as My Father began to work more miracles through Me, I was driven to greater desperation. After that first visible miracle in Cana, I could see the handwriting on the wall; I caught a glimpse of what My public ministry would entail. I knew that the press and the demands of the people would only continue to grow. I knew the need, and I felt incapable of meeting that need in My flesh. I knew I had been called to put My faith into action, but I didn't "feel" capable of dealing with it in My flesh.

My Father had given Me a new anointing when I stood the tests of faith in the wilderness. I knew He wouldn't fail Me. But as all this was unfolding before Me, I knew I needed to get down to business and get some answers and direction, as well as something to hold on to for My Own peace of mind and spirit. I knew I had to sort things out in My mind and heart. It was not that I expected to understand everything with My carnal mind at the time, but I knew I needed some word from My Father, something to spark My faith, something to hold on to.

You could say I was passing through My Own crisis of faith at the time. My faith was being sorely tested. I needed help. So I desperately called out to My Father, and when I did, He called Me aside. He told Me to come up into the mountain by Myself. At that time, I had one of the most serious of all conversations (in My human life) with My Father, and it was there He presented Me with one of the most prized of all possessions. What My Father gave Me at that point in My ministry, I am about to give to you now; but before I do so, listen carefully.

A Boost from the Father to Fulfill My Destiny!

Up until this time I had passed the needed tests and made decisions and choices that brought Me to the point I was at. I chose to fulfill My calling, yet in order to continue in My calling, My Father found it necessary to make some changes and give Me some special gifts in order to facilitate My mission. He had already given Me a fresh new anointing for the job at hand. He had enhanced the gift of faith in My human heart, just as I have increased the same in your heart now. But it was My responsibility to do something with that increase of faith I had been given. I had to believe it. I had to access it. I had to act on it. I chose to do so. I made the right choices, and even though there were times I felt like giving up, I didn't; I held on to My faith.

Some of you might picture this "holding on to faith" in different ways, but when I say I held on tightly to My faith, I didn't just sit there "holding on" for dear life waiting for something to happen. Hold on to it I did, but I did it as I was on the go, putting that faith into action. I held it tight, all right, but I held tight as I was on the run doing the things that natural man said could not be done. I wasn't only holding on to My faith, I was proving My faith, putting it to good use, exercising it, stretching it, acting on it at every opportunity that presented itself. I always had to do My part.

What My Father presented Me with at that time helped Me to put My faith into action. What He was about to put in My hands gave Me courage to trust and obey where He was leading. What He was entrusting Me with was the means to get the job done, and this boosted My faith into action.

In that moment He gave Me the keys to both Heaven and Hell--the keys to unleash the power of Heaven and to leash any power of Hell. He gave Me full access to every power source of Heaven, the code to unlock every solution, the means to bypass all impossibilities. He didn't just give Me keys to designated sectors or portions, but He gave Me full and unlimited access--all the keys to Heavenly resources.

Now My Father was giving Me full possession. I held at My fingertips the ability to unlock everything, to have understanding of every situation, to understand when necessary every thought and intent of every heart, to release all of Heaven's power and bind all of Satan's power, should it be necessary.

My Father did this because He was going to expect more out of Me in My public ministry. Before that, I had access to Heaven, all right, but now I had complete access--no holds barred. This was because I had passed the tests thus far and could be trusted to continue. It was because I merited this help from Heaven, and My mission was crucial to the saving of mankind; thus it was necessary to equip Me with such access.

All power was given Me in Heaven and in Earth. I had the power within Me all along, just as you have had, for you were ordained and chosen since the beginning of time. So actually, in a sense, I already possessed the keys, but what happened in that moment, in terms you can understand, is that My Father enhanced My gift of faith and turned on My activation key, enabling Me to access the full power! I was equipped from the beginning, but now I would be able to access all power. All I had to do was My part--to believe and to take action. All I had to do was access the key codes, which I possessed. Much like you do today in accessing information on a computer; you punch in the right code and you're able to access all you need to know. It was that simple. ⁽⁶⁰⁾





"Disciples Only" Miracles

My early disciples recorded many of the miracles My Father did on My behalf, but they did not record some of the more "for disciples only" miracles that I performed, for these would have been either too much for those outside our intimate circle to comprehend and receive, or not wise to disclose at the time for security's sake.

Often it was necessary for Me to pull down miracles of amazing protection and supply from Heaven so that My disciples and I could continue our work. It is written that I walked through the crowds unnoticed, and I also found it necessary to call on Heaven for great miracles of protection in order to blind the eyes of both the Romans and our enemies from noticing our presence.

One time as we were camped out under the trees in a certain field, Roman soldiers were passing by. As it was the custom at the time to round up would-be troublemakers--and in Roman eyes we certainly fit this bill--had those soldiers spotted us that night, our ministry would have been prematurely ended. So I prayed and asked My Father to do a miracle so they would not see us. As the soldiers rode by in full view of our camp, instead of spotting us, their eyes beheld a lake of calm waters with only an occasional mother duck and her ducklings gliding by. This was not a facade nor an optical illusion, but a miracle of Heavenly power.

Today some people might call this a mirage. Scientists theorize and try to explain it away. "An illusion," they call it; "a trick of the eye." Don't be fooled with the "explain away" theories of Satan. I worked many "mirage" miracles during My time on Earth, as I still do today if you have faith and pray!

Peter, James, and his brother John were well deserving of the blessing My Father gave them that day on the mountain when the glory of Heaven shone on Me, and Moses and Elias appeared. I knew I could well trust them after that time, because they followed closely and carried out My request to keep their silence about the incident, as I requested.

Because of this, it wasn't many weeks after I was transfigured before them that I took them up to that same mountain. It so happened at the time that these same three, Peter, James, and John, were each going through a special time, and I wanted to give them some extra encouragement. As we returned that night to the same spot on the mountain, I looked up to My Father and asked Him to open the windows of Heaven to these faithful ones whom I loved so dearly.

They got a good taste of Heaven that night as we were translated into the Heavenly realm for a time of praise and fellowship and Heavenly festivity as only Heaven can provide--including dancing with the houris of Heaven! This was a special miracle from My Father's hand to allow them this Heavenly tour and a taste of Heaven's delights in this way. Needless to say, this event kindled a burning fire within them and gave them a well-deserved boost and strength and inspiration to carry on! It was also a touch of love from My Father to Me, and strengthened Me for the days I was soon to face in Pilate's court.

Miracles of Healing Hearts!

Walking on the water, even raising Lazarus' fleshly body from the dead, were great miracles, but these obvious signs and - wonders were not as great as some of the less-obvious-at-first-sight miracles which My Father worked on My behalf in the hearts of men. Walking on the water and turning water into wine was supernatural, yet the miracle of changing a hardened heart was a far greater wonder and proof of Our divinity.

These miracles of healing hearts which My Father worked through Me, and that I in turn work through you today, are the divine work of My hand. False science appears to work great things, but only I can touch a hardened heart. Yes, I did many wondrous acts of raising dead flesh and turning the water to wine, multiplying the food, healing bodies, and calming the angry sea, but it was the less showy, the apparently unseen miracles, that were My greatest works--those performed in the hearts of men.

As Solomon asked, "Who can bear a wounded spirit?" Only My miracle-working power can touch and heal a wounded spirit. I worked many miracles in the hearts and spirits of men, women, and children when I walked on Earth, as I still work in the hearts of men today, and these truly are My favorite miracles. ⁽⁶¹⁾

What People Need Most

There were many times when I wished I could have done more, when I saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion upon them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd; when I lifted up My voice and cried, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how oft would I have gathered you under My wings, as a hen gathers her chicks, but ye would not" (Matthew 9:36; 23:37).

I felt a burden, despair, a heavy feeling in My heart--longing that all the problems, all the hardships, all the pain, could just be lifted and taken away, but I knew that this was not the answer. Sure, I could heal some, and I could perform miracles to feed the hungry sometimes, but that was not the world's greatest need. These miracles were what they needed to see so that they could believe My Words and know that a prophet had been among them. But their greatest needs were not these physical things, although they certainly seemed the most desperate and immediate needs. Their greatest need was to know that God loved them, that I loved them.

They needed to know that God was not some Pharisee or Sadducee or rabbi who constantly quoted laws and rules and regulations. They needed to see God as their Father, a kind and loving Father, One Who loved them more than they knew, and Who longed to set them free from the dry letter of the law, the ritual sacrifices and ceremonial offerings, and give them the certainty of salvation.

That is why He sent Me to you, to feel your pain, to know your burdens, to be touched with the feelings of your infirmities, and finally, to give My life for you, that by My blood you would live, by My broken body you could be healed, by My sacrifice you could be set free from the burdens of sin, and translated into the Kingdom of God.

This was the salvation you needed most-freedom from that spiritual bondage of the soul, even more than healing from the nagging afflictions of the flesh.⁽⁶²⁾

Mary and Martha

Mary sat at My feet, hearing My Words and loving Me. Martha meanwhile was rushing about. I said to her, "Thou art troubled with many things" (Luke 10:38-42). What did I mean? The many things were all the jobs and busy things she had her eyes on- so much to do, and the work never-ended! Why was she troubled by them? Because she thought in her own carnal reasoning that if she didn't do it, who would? No one. Thus she needed to do it.

She left Me out of her reasoning. She gave her work top priority, so she had to trust in her own logic about the situation. She left out the fact that through the workings of the spirit, I and My heavenly helpers could intercede and come to her aid and work out what I call those "other things," and what she called "priorities."

She had her eyes on the flesh and her mind in the carnal realm, and she forgot about the spirit. How could she forget about My marvelous Spirit after all the wonders of the Spirit she had already seen? Because she got her eyes and mind off Me. She was looking at everything else around her, and getting herself in a tizzy about things-caught up in a whirl of her own righteousness, of how she thought things should be, and even how she thought I wanted things to be-but she wasn't attuned to what I really wanted: her time and attention.

Martha did have the right idea about caring for others and loving them, and wanted to show Me that love through her works-except that I had something very new and special that day to add to the depth of her faith and spiritual experience.

As I shared with Mary about how important it was that we not get entangled with the things of this world so we can keep our eyes on Heaven and rise above, Martha was running around being the dandy bad example of everything I was teaching Mary that day. As Mary gazed into My eyes in wonder and understanding, swimming deeply in the cool waters of My Spirit, never wanting to leave that place in time or space-that's when Martha could stand it no longer and interrupted-"Jesus, ask Mary to help me! She's just sitting there. Don't You care about me?"

Our dear sweet original Martha has learned so much since that famous example that has gone down in history-both on Earth and since coming to Heaven. She is now one of My many "Marys" in Heaven. She doesn't feel bad when people quote the example of her mistake from the Bible, because she wants to do anything possible to help others not to make the same serious mistake of putting the Master's service before the Master. You'll be so amazed when you meet her Here-you'll wonder indeed, "Is that you, Martha?" for she has overcome. She puts loving Me and spending time with Me in first place. She's a wonderful example to many.⁽⁶³⁾

Lazarus - "Rest in Spite Of"

"Rest in spite of" is the quality I had, and what I manifested when I heard that one of My closest friends on Earth neared death. When I heard of Lazarus' illness, I was tempted to be beset with the burden and the weight and the sorrow of it all. I was tempted to rush to his side and give him My healing power. I was tempted to tend to the matter immediately; he was so close to My heart.

But My Father brought this quality to the fore in those pivotal moments, and that is how, despite the gravity of the physical situation, I was able to take My time, to rest, to relax, to eat with friends, to continue to witness, to even wait a few days before making My way to tend to this very desperate situation. This is how I was able to portray a spirit of peace, trust, and calm, even though the throngs around Me were frantic and seriously judgmental of My decision.

And then, even when I arrived at the scene, the multitudes accused Me of not caring for My friend, of purposely delaying My journey so that Lazarus would die. But despite the tears of Mary and Martha, despite the doubts of My disciples, My faith remained strong, because I had rested in My Father prior to tending to this matter. I had yielded to His timetable. I had "rested in spite of" all the turmoil that surrounded Me. And because of this, I had the faith that the miracles that I needed that day would be performed.

Of course, I was still moved, and I wept. I didn't weep out of doubt, but I wept out of emotion, out of deep feeling for My loved one. But more so for those who doubted Me, who doubted My love, and who accused Me without knowing the full matter.

And that's when the miracle happened. That's when I brought life to the dead. That's when I proved, once again, the power of My Father, and that's how many more came to know of His love and His salvation.

And this gift will bring the same results to you. This "rest in spite of" will teach you to rest even though the throngs press

about you with their needs and their emergencies, and yes, even their grave situations. And as you rest, My strength will be poured through you and will be transformed into miracle-working power, so that when you set out to see to those situations, miracles will happen at the touch of your faith. This is a gift that I want to give you, because it will make your life easier, and it will bring miracles.

Do you believe? Thank you for your belief, because this quality is very special to Me. Without it, I could not have performed My mission on Earth, and I know the same is true for you too. So I give it to you, from My heart to yours. I give you the gift that carried Me through. Let it carry you too.

More on Lazarus: Lessons of Faith Learned by Mary and Martha

If you find yourself in a trying situation where progress seems to be at a standstill, stagnated, or moving very, very slowly, the best thing you can do is to detach yourself from it emotionally and ask Me to help you rise above it and see the big picture. Ask Me to help you see it through My eyes, objectively and rationally.

Many times your emotions play a big part in the way you look at a situation and how you handle it and take care of it. This is just human nature. But the best thing is to detach yourself from the emotional aspect and ask Me to help you to see things the way I do.

Remember, I had to do this when I was there on Earth. When I heard the news that Lazarus was dead, I did not immediately jump up and run back to Mary and Martha in Bethany. I stayed two more days in the city I was in, as My work there was not yet finished. As you know, this deeply disappointed Mary and Martha, to the point that both Martha's and Mary's first words to Me when they came out to meet Me were accusatory, indicating that if I had been there, Lazarus would not have died (John 11:1-32). But as you know, and unbeknownst to Mary and Martha, God had an even more spectacular event in mind, which could only be accomplished by Me not running back to heal Lazarus while he was sick. All things did eventually work together for good, and a great victory was gotten out of a seeming impossibility.

But put yourself in the place of Mary or Martha. Those four days they waited for My return were very trying for them. Not only was their brother dead, but to them, I appeared to be uncaring and unsympathetic to their plight. As they saw later, I did have everything under control and all things did work together for good.

How well do you think you would have done under similar circumstances? Would you have continued to trust Me, that I had everything under control and that the situation was going to turn out victorious--whether it was My will for Lazarus to die that day, or to be raised from the dead? Or would you have fretted, doubted, and gotten upset, and greeted Me with stinging words as Martha and Mary did? I do not blame them, and they felt very bad afterwards and apologized again and again when they finally realized what My plan was, and that all things turned out even more victorious than they could have imagined.

Having your faith tried in a difficult situation is never easy and never will be, and not something one looks forward to or would wish upon themselves. But it is during those times that you have to remind yourself over and over again that I am in control. I love you. You are My bride, I am your Husband, and I will never abandon you or desert you. I am with you through all things, both the good and the bad, and during those times of trial and tribulation I am right by your side, no matter how much you may think or feel I am not, or whatever lies the Enemy whispers in your ear.

This is when praise becomes your most powerful tool and weapon against the Enemy. Praise will lift you above the clouds and help you to see the situation more from My perspective than your own human earthly one. It sounds like an impossibility, but it is a promise that you can stand on.

I ride upon the wings of your praise. Therefore claiming the keys and praising in any situation, especially a negative situation, brings Me right to the forefront of the battle, where I draw out My sword and cut the Enemy to the heart. ⁽⁶⁴⁾

Desperation Gets Results

When the woman with the issue of blood dragged herself through the crowd to wait in anticipation of My passing and reached out to touch the hem of My garment, that was desperation. She had no other hope. All that remained of her faith and strength was focused totally on that action.

Perhaps you don't have a clear picture of that event. This woman was not just being carried around on her bier. She didn't just get up and stroll over, casually waiting to touch Me as I passed by and then say, "Oh, how nice, I feel much better now." This poor woman had been bleeding for many years. Her body was emaciated. Her ability to walk had long passed.

This precious one had to literally drag her half-dead body across the ground, through the thick crowd, in agonizing pain to reach Me. It was frightening for her. She could have easily been trampled upon. All she could think of was the hem of My garment that she was determined to reach. She knew that if she could only touch the hem of My garment, she would be healed. She was desperate and she had faith.

She had a level of desperation that many have never even imagined. Even to reach out those inches to touch some part of My garment required tremendous effort on her part. It was her sheer desperation, born of faith that wrought the miracle. Her need was so tremendous. This is why, at her touch, I felt the power of the Father flow through Me and into her. Her desperation evoked an

equally strong bolt of the Father's power and Spirit that was channeled through Me, to her (Mark 5:25-34).

It was blind Bartimaeus' pitiful cries which could not be silenced, cries of desperation from a tortured soul, desperate to be freed from the bonds of blindness, that drew Me to him and worked the miracle of his healing (Mark 10:46-52).

It was the desperation of the friends and family of the man with the palsy, watching him slowly shriveling up in agonizing pain, that prompted them to break a hole in the roof when they could not reach Me any other way, using every ounce of effort they could muster to bring him into My presence (Mark 2:1-12).

It was the utter desperation of many down through history who in times of great anguish or trial have cried out in desperation to Me and have received miraculous answers to prayer in direct response to the desperation of their heart. ⁽⁶⁵⁾

Living with a Traitor

I spent My entire ministry with a traitor amongst My closest disciples. Judas didn't just suddenly make his choice. He had been recruited by his former friends, the Zealots, early on, to give them information on My every move and word. At first it was supposedly because the Zealots wanted to be sure that I was the Messiah. As time went on, the Zealots became more convinced that I was not going to lead them in a physical army against Rome, and finally that I was actually a threat to their plans because I was drawing away many who might otherwise have resorted to supporting them in their violent attempts at a revolution.

Judas was not always a snake in the grass. At first he thought he could convince the other Zealots to follow Me. He thought he'd found just who they were looking for and was there to make sure they knew as much about Me as possible. At first he felt he was loyal to both Me and the Zealots, but as time went on and they turned further and further away, his allegiance to his old compatriots became stronger than his loyalty to Me.

He became more and more critical of My actions as his Zealot friends clouded his vision with their interpretation of everything he reported, until in the final months he was convinced that I was a traitor to what his friends believed in, and therefore what he believed in. At this point he began interpreting everything I said and did by Satan's standards and perspective, and began disseminating it to the Zealots and even the Sanhedrin. He knew that the Pharisees and the Zealots were both looking for a way to rid themselves of Me and he enjoyed what he thought was his brilliance in pulling the wool over My eyes by being so close, when inside he'd chosen the darkness.

When I told him to go and do what he had to do, he suddenly realized that I had known all along who he was and what he was up to. This infuriated him, and in his rage he went and gave the last bits of information he had to those whom he was pretty sure would put an end to Me.

Afterwards, it began to sink in that for Me to have known all he was doing, I had to be who I said I was. He began to see things as they truly were, and then he tried to undo the horrors he'd unleashed. When he saw that he couldn't, he chose the coward's way. ⁽⁶⁶⁾

Compassion for Peter

I was a Man of passion and drive, and I gave My all wholeheartedly toward any task My Father set before Me. I was willing to die daily for the sake of My Father's will. I counted it a privilege and blessing.

One day I saw the discouragement in Peter's eyes because he couldn't live up to My same passion and drive. We'd walked a day's journey in the heat, and even though it was late and most people were in bed for the night, I was set on doing one more thing. But when I saw the look in Peter's eyes, how that usual spark was missing, and heard the discouragement in his voice, I felt that if I pushed further I would be pushing beyond My Father's wiser judgment. I heard My Father's voice, "Son, it's time to relax. The work will be there tomorrow and I will give You the strength for it. Tonight I want to reward You for a job well done."

So we went to a friend's house and had a feast with wine and merriment. Instead of talking about the work ahead of us, I told Peter how much I needed him and appreciated his help and counsel, how I depended on him and valued his wisdom. You should have seen Peter's eyes the next day--bright as a shining star--and he was practically singing. The work was still important, but I couldn't do it without My valuable right arm--My disciples. ⁽⁶⁷⁾

My Heart Broke for Peter

Look back for a moment to the hours before My death on Earth. As I sat with My disciples, My greatest pain was not that I would have to suffer and die, for I had been given the grace to endure what I was to face. But even greater at that moment was the pain in My heart for two who sat with Me. One was Judas--who I knew would betray Me, and when faced with what he had done, would choose to give up and take his own life rather than turn to the Father and cry out for forgiveness. And the other was Peter.

I knew the terrible test Peter was to face. My struggle would have seemed the greater one to his mind, but I understood the depths of despair he would face, the floods of Satan's lies that would be poured upon him, and how weak and confused he would be. For him, the testing was in some ways as great as My time in the garden that I faced some hours later. I understood that, and My heart broke for him. I saw his agony and felt its sting every bit as intensely as My Own.

If I could have, I would have taken his burden and tried to carry it Myself. But I knew that he had to pass through that time of agony if he was to become all that he needed to be. ⁽⁶⁸⁾

Prayer Makes the Difference

Follow My example. What did I do when the Enemy was attacking My Apostle Peter with all of his might and furor in order to try to defeat him before he had even really begun his ministry? I prayed for him. I prayed earnestly and desperately, and My Father answered My prayer. Though Peter still had his tests and battles, things that he had to personally fight and overcome, My prayers for him had a tremendous effect; they made a huge difference (Luke 22:31-32).

The battles that Peter had to face and overcome were very big and daunting for him. They were extremely intense battles. The Enemy was pulling out all the stops to try to defeat him, because he knew what a detriment Peter would be to his plans. He knew what an effect Peter would have in his lifetime and through the work he began--a work that is carried on even to this day.

It was a fierce attack, and I prayed desperate, fervent prayers on his behalf. I battled for him in prayer, for his strength and protection, for his service to Me. I petitioned My Father on his behalf, I claimed him for My service in wholehearted prayer, and My Father did not fail to answer My prayer--just as I will not fail to answer the prayers that you pray for those who are being buffeted by the Enemy. Of course, the person will still need to make their choices; it's ultimately up to them! But oh, what a tremendous force for good you can be through prayer. ⁽⁶⁹⁾

When I Hung on that Cross, I Paid it All

That night in the garden, before I went to the cross, I had to make the choice to willingly give My life. As I had told the people earlier, no man was doing this to Me, but I had made the choice Myself (John 10:17-18), and if I hadn't made it, My Father would have instantly sent a legion of angels to deliver Me. And, yes, He would have delivered Me. But I wouldn't have accomplished His highest will, and I would have failed in My mission to win you, My lost brethren.

I, the Lamb of God, was the only One Who could pay the price. I knew this, yet even then it was still difficult to give Myself as a sacrifice. It was still hard! As many times as I had made the decision to yield to My Father's will, the choice was still not easy. I had found out through experience that the choice to do My Father's will brought the highest results, so I knew which would be the right choice. But I asked My Father if there was any other way. When I received His answer, I bowed My head and asked for the grace to obey His will one more time (Matthew 26:39). ⁽⁷⁰⁾

Do you think the battles that I faced in My last hours were easy? Can you imagine the intensity of a struggle that would cause you to sweat drops of blood, as I did in the Garden of Gethsemane? Can you imagine the agony that would cause Me to cry out to the Father as I did on the cross, "Why have You forsaken Me?" (Luke 22:44; Mat.27:46). ⁽⁷¹⁾

I had to take it all the way to the end. If I had died by the wayside before I got to the cross, or if I had fainted in My mind spiritually and given up before My time, I would have failed. I would have failed you, I would have failed all mankind, I would have failed My Father, and I would have failed all the host of Heaven. I would have failed the whole purpose of creation! I was running a marathon. I saw the goal ahead, and I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt what that goal was and what I had to do to pace Myself to reach that goal.

If I hadn't reached that goal, it would have been in vain. Yes, I would have shown love to a few or even many people. I would have been the sample of love they needed to see. I would have fed them spiritually with My Father's Words. I would have healed many and convinced them that I was the Son of God. I would have done great works and encouraged many and been their friend and lifted them out of the doldrums. I would have made them happier and changed their lives and outlook for the better. But if I had failed to make it to the cross, it would have all been in vain!

I was the Lamb of God. There was no one else who could be that. If I had not made it that far, I would have failed in the one priority that was absolutely necessary, the one thing that had to be done even if nothing else was accomplished--to reach that cross and die for you. I had to put all else aside that in any way hindered that. Everything I did had to be in the direction of that goal. ⁽⁷²⁾

I prepared My disciples for what they would see Me go through when I had to die on the cross. I encouraged them that it was all part of My Father's plan, and that it was something that I wanted to happen, and that had to happen, and even then they all took it pretty hard and it almost wrecked their faith. But in dying as I did, I fulfilled My Father's purpose and Mine. It was something that had to happen. ⁽⁷³⁾

Behold, what manner of love I have toward you, in that while ye were yet sinners, I died for you. Ponder this simple fact and reflect upon the depth of My Love, that while ye were yet sinners, while ye were full of iniquity and filth, I died for you. So great is My

Love for you that I could see beyond your weaknesses, beyond your sins, and I could see the beauty of My creation. I gave My Love for you, I gave My life for you. So is My Love. ⁽⁷⁴⁾

Many a man and many a woman in the world have given their life for another. Many have suffered and died for a worthy cause--yet when I gave My life for you, I did not merely die for you. I not only suffered My Own hurt and pain, but it was given to Me to also take on your sufferings and pain. I came in the flesh that I might taste death for every man. I died more than a thousand deaths on that cross; I suffered more than the pain of one man. I died for every man, woman, and child who has ever walked the face of the Earth. I bore the pain of each one. I not only suffered My pain, but I felt your pain also, so that through My stripes you might be healed (Isaiah 53:5).

I took the pain, My children, of each of you, the suffering of each of you. I did not die for only one or feel for only one, but I died for all, I felt for all--each one's pain, each one's suffering--so that you could have a way of escape. When you cast your burdens, your cares, your sufferings on Me, I will sustain you, because I already bore it for you. I already took on your pain and your sufferings, so that you, through My suffering, may be healed and delivered and find relief in your hour of need. ⁽⁷⁵⁾

As I suffered, as I fought and bled and died for you, it was My great Love for you that sustained Me. Otherwise I never would have been able to bear the pain, the anguish, the heartache and the heartbreak, the horrors of death and dying all alone. Yet, for you, just you, it was worth it all! For I love you, and the very thought of you was My driving force, and this kept Me and gave Me hope.

As Pilate's lashes thrashed My back, with each blow I saw your face, and this sustained Me. As the soldiers spat on Me and mocked Me and thrust the crown of thorns onto My head, I could only see the light of your smile, and this gave Me strength to carry on. As I carried the cross through the streets, and as I fell to My knees, weak and weary with the burden of it all, My vision was blurred. Yet in that moment I could only recall how much I love you, and in this I found strength to carry on.

As I hung on the cross in shame and pain, and the feeling of defeat welled up inside of Me, yet I was able to overcome when I remembered that through this death I would wake to enjoy your love for all eternity. It was you, My love, just you, that kept Me going -- My Love for you, My concern for you, and My desire for you.

The thought of having you by My side for all eternity gave Me strength and faith to carry on. Your smile, your touch, the love I have in My heart for you, just you, is what kept Me going. My Love for you was My driving force, for I could not bear the thought of not having you by My side, the thought of losing you.

I love you from everlasting to everlasting, with so great a love! So great a love story is My Love for you! ⁽⁷⁶⁾

For though it looked like a defeat for Me to be whipped and to be scourged, to be crowned with thorns, to be nailed to the cross, and even as I cried out, 'My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?' yet My Father kept Me and brought Me forth in a great resurrection that changed the course of history and that changed all eternity. ⁽⁷⁷⁾

My Father could not deliver Me from the cross, even though His entire being ached to release Me. The pain I felt, the suffering I endured, tore at His heart, He couldn't watch Me die on the cross. ⁽⁷⁸⁾

Don't you think that if He could have, the Father would have come down and taken My place on the cross? The agony He felt at seeing what I had to suffer was every bit as painful for Him as it was for Me. But had He done so, He would have robbed Me of My bride--you! He would have taken away My crown, because it was in going through what I went through that I am now able to rule and reign and love you in a way that I could not have otherwise. ⁽⁷⁹⁾

When I hung on that cross, I paid it all. I endured your suffering that you might be freed, that you might never have to know death--and that you might also be relieved of pain in your hour of need. Therefore, My faithful ones have only to cast their burdens on Me. I already paid the price; I already bore the pain and the suffering upon My shoulders.

Therefore you have only to stand steadfast and know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that I will reveal in you (Romans 8:18). This is the strong consolation that I give to My children--that should you suffer for My Name's sake, you will also receive great grace and glory to endure hardness, for I will keep you in your hour of need with the power of Heaven, and you will be crowned with glory and honor! ⁽⁸⁰⁾

I was in the world as you are in the world, a human being, but I was not of the world--and this realization gave Me great faith and conviction. Knowing that I had something far greater, something of great price, something to be treasured above all that any human could ever even begin to imagine or think, was cause enough to keep Me on a straight path. I cherished My place and the mission I had as a human being greatly, and did not want to let My Heavenly Father down, nor you.

I knew I had a mission--that of saving you--and this spurred Me on. My stakes were high, as your stakes are high. I knew that in My frail human hands I held great power, for I held the truth of Heaven. In My human hands was the future of mankind, and this awesome realization kept Me going and desperate to obey My Father's voice, and as I did, I learned and grew in wisdom and in stature.

I was different from others, and this was obvious to those who were of understanding. I was the Light. "The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). You, My children, are also different from those of the world, for I fill you with the light of My Spirit. As a city set on a hill, My light in you cannot be hid. I came to Earth on a mission from My Father in Heaven to bring the light to others, just as I send you, My children, on a mission to tell others of the glories of My Heavenly Kingdom that is soon to come on Earth.

I was a man of sorrows because I grieved over the corruption and perversion that reigned in the world. I grieved for the lost and the lonely and the needy in spirit. But at the same time, I rejoiced, for I had the light of Heaven in My heart. I was sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, for I knew the glories of Heaven and I knew that what My Father was asking of Me was worth every ounce of sacrifice required on My part.⁽⁸¹⁾

It took faith for Me to come to Earth and to believe that I could make a difference as a human. It took faith to believe in My Father's plan, that I could actually accomplish something as great as changing the course of the history of the world by the love I showed in living and dying for mankind. But My Father's plan worked!

It takes faith to believe that I have a plan for your life and that you are following it. It takes faith to believe that you are actually making a difference in the hearts and lives of others. But you will see, as I did with My Father's plan, that you are accomplishing My will and doing what I have called you to do.⁽⁸²⁾



1. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:1, 2
2. A Feast-time Token of Love! #3226:7-14
3. The Summit '96 Letters--Part 6 #3092:25
4. A Feast-time Token of Love! #3226:15-30
5. Words Of Wisdom, Part 1 #3614:88
6. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:20-23
7. Mama's Memos! No.06 #3156:113
8. Perfect Love #3636:86, 87
9. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:50-59
10. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:10-12
11. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:9-15
12. Not of This World!--Part 1 #3648:53, 54, 82-84
13. In Good Company! #3557:59, 60
14. Choose Unity! #3642:134, 135
15. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:48-52
16. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:3-6
17. Finding Beauty In The Collage Of Life! #3598:62, 68
18. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:55-59
19. The Summit '96 Letters--Part 6 #3092:41, 42
20. Not Of This World!--Part 1 #3648:68, 69
21. Call to the Rescue part 1 #3114:93, 94
22. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:28-30
23. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:60,61
24. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 3 #3561:9
25. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:16-18
26. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:62-64
27. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 4 #3604:4-8
28. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:7-25
29. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:19-34
30. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:5-8
31. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:35-37, 40-51
32. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:44-46
33. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:48-54
34. Be a Missionary! #3135:32-35
35. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:26-41
36. Do the Humble Thing! #3251:75-90
37. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:32-38
38. Crisis of faith!, Part 1 #3088:84-86, 88, 89
39. Nothing Is Too Hard For Jesus! #3658:114-118
40. Crisis of faith, Part 1 #3088:92-97
41. Nothing Is Too Hard For Jesus! #3658:122-126
42. Crisis of faith, Part 1 #3088:98, 103-106, 115-119, 122-129, 150-155
43. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:47, 49
44. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:34-36
45. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:74
46. Advancing Together! #3666:37
47. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:75-77
48. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:5-7
49. The Summit '96 Letters--Part 6 #3092:26-37
50. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:37, 38
51. Problems and Solutions! Part 5 #3073:26-28
52. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:46, 47
53. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:39-42
54. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:41-43
55. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:12-16
56. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:9-11

57. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:17-21
58. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:34-43
59. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:53-59
60. The Keys to the Kingdom #3318:7-27
61. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:42-51
62. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:61-65
63. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:22-27
64. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 4 #3604:60-74
65. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:54-60
66. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:13-17
67. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:39-41
68. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 4 #3604:39-41
69. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 4 #3604:26-28
70. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:18, 19
71. Faith--Now and Forever! #3699:61
72. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:36-38
73. Gold, Roses, And Thorns! #3639:29, 30
74. A New Day of Love! #3011:41
75. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:26, 27
76. My Heart Belongs to You! #3080:26-30
77. Let Jesus Bear the Weight! #2987:79
78. Finding Beauty in the Collage of Life! #3598:55
79. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:31
80. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:28, 29
81. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:13-16
82. Words Of Wisdom, Part 1 #3614:92, 93