

CHRIST AND CONFLICT

Because Jesus overcame this world, you can take heart in your time of trouble.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When you set out to do something worthwhile, you can expect conflict. The gospel of Luke shows patterns of how Christ overcame conflict with self, others and spirits. (All scripture references are from Luke, unless otherwise noted.)
Jesus Christ overcame conflict with "self".
- ❖ Jesus overcame *selfish ambition*. When His parents found Him conversing with the experts in the temple as a child (2:49-52), it was clear that He was gifted and that He felt He was doing His Father's business. Yet, Jesus returned with His earthly parents and was subject to them.
- ❖ The Bible tells us, "A man's gift will make room for him" (Proverbs 18:16). The key is for us to understand that this must unfold in God's timing; His order.
- ❖ Jesus fasted to bring His *body* under subjection. After His baptism, He went into the dessert. After 40 days without food (4:1-2), one of the temptations from the devil appealed to the hunger pangs that His body was suffering.
- ❖ Jesus did not allow His hunger to blur the intent of scripture. Rather, He said, "Life comes from the Word of God, not from bread." Then in Matthew 17:21 KJV (see also Lk. 9:37), Jesus stated of some demons that "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting [subjection of the body]."
- ❖ Jesus prayed in Gethsemane to overcome His *will* (22:42). We want to do what *we* want, which, in our humanity, inevitably comes at the expense of others. Christ's conflict had to be won because His mission was about Divine – not human – will.
- ❖ This is no less true for today's Christian, and we do well to get the order right as early as possible.
Christ overcame conflict with other people.
- ❖ When rejected at Nazareth, Jesus passed through and went on His way (4:28-30). In the face of antagonism, Jesus knew when to hold His ground and when to walk away from a conflict.
- ❖ Great multitudes came to hear and be healed by Him, so He often withdrew by Himself and prayed (5:15-16). Being with people and ministering to them is a blessing and privilege. Yet we all need time alone to recentre ourselves and our focus.
- ❖ In the raising Jairus' daughter from the dead, He put out those who were a distraction so He could focus on what was important (8:53-54).

KEY SCRIPTURE: John 16:25-33

- ❖ When the soldiers came to arrest Him, He healed the high priest's servant's ear (22:50). A person's sins never distract Jesus' attention away from their need.
- ❖ Jesus wasn't always on the passive end of conflict. He drove out those who were buying and selling in the temple (19:45-46). The gospel accounts of this never mention Jesus hurting anyone. The object of His conflict was beyond the physical.

Christ overcame spiritual conflict

- ❖ As part of His spiritual conflict, Jesus forgave sins. He forgave the sins of:
-a paralyzed man (5:22);
-the woman who washed His feet (7:48);
-Simon Peter, who denied Him (22:31-42; Mark 16:7).
- ❖ Jesus resisted the hypocritical, "holier-than-thou", pharisaical spirit (6:11, 13:14). Religious leaders tried to catch Him in His words, but He silenced them (20:2, 20, 40).
- ❖ Jesus confronted the spirit world directly. He overcame Satan's temptation using scripture (4:3-13). (The pure Word of God is a powerful tool!) He expelled demons from the Gadarene man (8:24-29).
- ❖ Prying people free from the unseen chains of sin was the ultimate conflict at Calvary; a conflict more profoundly significant than the drama of physical torture that played out in visible sight.
- ❖ That we will have conflict in this world is without question. Whether we deal with it in a Christ-like manner is the question.
- ❖ God has given us a pattern in Christ, and power in His Spirit, so that we can act with courage and wisdom in times of trouble.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Do you typically run from or engage in conflict? If you engage, is your response usually verbal, physical, both, silence, other?
2. Which example(s) of Jesus' conflicts do you relate to the most? What do you learn from His response(s)?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, thank You for alerting us that conflict *will* come and for the assurance that You have already overcome on our behalf. In Jesus' name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- ☁️ (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Do you enjoy watching/participating in martial arts? Why or why not?