Jesus Our Example, Leader, Tempted One, And Overcomer

Intro: Man is looking for heroes; people to be our example and leader, someone that we can follow after. Jesus is the perfect example for us to follow. Peter describes His life as doing good; Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” From His example we get strength for our daily life.

I. Jesus Our Example And Leader
   A. Jesus should be the example in our lives.
      1. Man is going to follow someone.
         a. 75% of what we learn and do is the result of what we see in others.
         b. God gave us His Son to see and follow Him.
      2. Jesus is that sinless, perfect example.
         a. John 13:15 “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”
         b. Man does not live up to the high and noble standard. Man sins.
            (1) Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
            (2) Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
            (3) Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
         c. Jesus is that good shepherd going before His sheep.
            (1) John 10:7, 11 “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.... 11I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”
            (2) John 10:4 “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.”
            (3) He goes before us and we follow His voice, His commands as revealed in the New Testament.
   B. We must follow Him.
      1. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”
         a. To walk as He walked we must come to know Him, see where and how He walked.
         b. Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
         c. Phi. 3:10 “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”
         d. John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
      2. We are what we think.
         a. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
         b. Mat. 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies;”
      3. To follow Jesus we must develop within our mind His mind.
         a. Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
b. Then He will be formed in us; Gal. 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”

4. We die to self to allow Him to live in us; Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

5. 1 John 4:17 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

C. We can follow Christ’s example.

1. Paul was able to follow His example; 2 Tim. 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”

2. He had a crown of righteousness awaiting him.

3. That crown of righteousness not only awaited him, but also all those who love His appearing; 2 Tim. 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

II. JESUS THE TEMPTED ONE

A. Jesus is our example in being tempted.

1. He was tempted in every way we are tempted.

2. Heb. 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

3. Heb. 2:17-18 “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

B. He was tempted to sin.

1. There are three avenues of temptation.

   a. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

   b. Notice Eve.

      (1) Gen. 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

      (2) Eve saw that the tree was good for food—lust of the flesh.

      (3) The tree was pleasant to the eyes—lust of the eyes.

      (4) It was desired to make one wise—pride of life.

2. Jesus was tempted to sin in each of these ways.

   a. Mat. 4:1 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”

   b. Stones to bread—lust of the flesh.

      (1) Mat. 4:3 “And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”

      (2) Forget about the spiritual; concern yourself only with the physical.

   c. Jump off the pinnacle of the temple and allow the angels to bear you up—pride of life;

      Mat. 4:5-6 “Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”
d. Satan promises to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he will fall down and worship him—lust of the eyes; Mat. 4:8-9 “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

3. Jesus overcame sin; so can we; 1 Cor. 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

C. Jesus was tempted in trials and afflictions.
1. Isaiah prophesied that the suffering Servant would be one acquainted with grief.
   a. Isa. 53:3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
   b. We often see Jesus in sorrow and in grief, but there is no record of Jesus laughing.
   c. We observe these trials and afflictions in various ways.

2. Jesus had no earthly permanent home.
   a. Mat. 8:19-20 “And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 20And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”
   b. Jesus recognized that He was just a stranger passing through this land.
      (1) 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
      (2) Phi. 3:20 “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ;”
   c. Consider the heartache of the homeless of our society.

3. Jesus grieved over and because of others.
   a. Jesus came to save sinful man; Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
   b. Yet, man rejected Him; John 1:11 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”
   c. He was rejected in His hometown; Mat. 13:53-58 “And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. 54And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? 55Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? 57And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. 58And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”
   d. He was rejected by His family.
      (1) John 7:5 “For neither did his brethren believe in him.”
      (2) Mark 3:21 “And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.”
   e. We see His grief over man’s rejection.
      (1) When He was about to heal a man on the Sabbath; Mark 3:5 “And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardiness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”
      (2) Mat. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”
4. Discouragement from their lack of understanding.
   a. The Jews had the Law of Moses
      (1) Rom. 3:2 “Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”
      (2) This should have brought them to Christ; Gal. 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
      (3) Jesus had spent over three years teaching them.
      (4) Yet, the Jews misunderstood Him.
   b. Even Christ’s apostles had a lack of understanding.
      (1) John 14:7-9 “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”
      (2) Even after Jesus’s death and resurrection, they thought that Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom; Acts 1:6 “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

D. Jesus faced the temptation of pain.
   1. His death.
      a. Pain and agony prior to the crucifixion.
         (1) In the Garden of Gethsemane; Luke 22:44 “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
         (2) After His arrest:
            (a) He endured five unjust trials in which He never received any justice.
            (b) During these trials He was mocked, slapped, and humiliated; 1 Pet. 2:23 “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;”
            (c) He was scourged by the Romans.
               (i) This alone killed many people.
               (ii) It was done with a “cat-of-nine-tails” with pieces of bone or metal tied to the end.
               (iii) The flesh, tendons, and ligaments would be shredded into a bloody mass.
               (iv) Then made to carry His cross to the place of crucifixion.
      b. The pain of the crucifixion.
         (1) They drove spikes through His hands and feet in an unnatural body position.
         (2) Some things associated with crucifixion:
            (a) insufferable thirst
            (b) terrific throbbing headache and nausea from the arteries of the head of stomach being filled with blood
            (c) tetanus (with its attending convulsions would tear the wounds
            (d) traumatic fever
            (e) gangrene
         (3) The person would be in indescribable pain so when death finally came it was a great blessing.
         (4) Jesus freely gave His life for us; John 10:17-18 “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
2. Leaving heaven.
   a. The true victory for Christ.
      (1) Many believe the victory was won in Gethsemane, it was actually won in heaven, before He ever came to this world.
      (2) As great as the pain of the cross was, the greatest pain and anguish would have been the leaving of heaven's home and coming to this world.
   b. Phi. 2:6-8 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
      (1) Form is the Greek μορφή (morphe) meaning the inner nature of and expressing it outward as.
      (2) Jesus was God both inwardly and outwardly.
      (3) Jesus was equal to God in every respect.
      (4) He emptied or humbled Himself to come to this world and die the death of the cross.
   c. Heb. 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
      (1) For is the Greek ἀντί (anti) meaning opposite to, for, or instead of.
      (2) Thus, instead of the joy that was before Him (which was eternal equality with the Father), He endured the cross.
      (3) 2 Cor. 8:9 “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

III. Jesus the Overcomer
   A. Jesus faced every temptation known to man, yet overcame to live a sinless life.
      1. Heb. 2:17-18 “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”
      2. Heb. 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”
      3. Prior to His crucifixion; John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”
      4. The end of those who fight against Him; Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”
   B. Those who are with Christ are also overcomers.
      1. The theme of Revelation is that Christ overcame and those with Him will overcome.
         a. Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”
         b. Rev. 3:21 “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
      2. When tempted to sin, we like Christ can overcome; 1 Cor. 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
      3. When faced with discouragement, persecutions, being forsaken, etc., we can overcome as Christ overcame.
4. The great promise of God; Heb. 13:5-6 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

IV. CHRIST’S EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING

A. Christ suffered in the flesh leaving us an example.

1. 1 Pet. 4:1 “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”

2. The suffering of Christ has reference to His death.
   a. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
   b. Heb. 9:26 “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”
   c. Heb. 13:12 “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”
   d. 1 Pet. 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

B. We suffer in the flesh unto death.

1. While Jesus suffered a physical death our is a spiritual death.

2. Death to the old man of sin.
   a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
   b. Gal. 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”
   c. Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
   d. Those who suffer (die) cease from sin.

3. This action takes place in the act of baptism.
   a. Rom. 6:1-7 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his resurrection: 6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
   b. So we yield ourselves to God; Rom. 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Conclusion: Have you followed the example of Christ in your life? When we follow His example in suffering unto death, we will overcome the world and sin and have the hope of eternal life in heaven.