

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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WHEN THE TEMPTER CAME TO HIM

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible identifies Satan as "a liar" (Jn. 8:44) and as "a roaring lion," who "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet. 5:8). Even the Lord Himself had an encounter with the devil. There are many great lessons stemming from this meeting. Consider these!

1) All Will Face Temptation. This includes Jesus. Matthew wrote, "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Matt. 4:1). The Hebrew author penned, "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" (Heb. 4:15). This is a commonality among all men. The Corinthians were taught temptation "is common to man" (I Cor. 10:13).

2) Satan Knows Our Most Vulnerable Points. Luke's account of this situation says, "in those days he did eat nothing: and when

they were ended, he afterward hungered" (Lk. 4:2).

Promptly, the tempter said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matt. 4:3).

Make no mistake about it, the devil owns "devices" which he routinely implements (II Cor. 2:11). This is precisely why Paul commanded, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). Every man has his own vice, his own struggle with particular temptations. Satan is aware of this, and will use it to his advantage. Expect it!

3) The Best Way To Fight Temptation Is With God's Word. In all, Jesus was tempted three times in this setting. Each time, His reply included, "It is written" (Matt. 4:4,7,10). He was making references to certain passages in God's Word. The Psalmist knew of this and said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). How well do you know God's Word?

4) Temptation Travels Through Three Channels.

One might wonder why the devil tempted Jesus only three times. The answer is because there are only three avenues of enticement. John identifies them as "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (I Jn. 2:16). Eve faced all three of these in short order (Gen. 3:6). Moses notified, "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" (Gen. 3:6). Satan uses these, and we must be ready!

5) The Devil Will Flee.

This is great news which has always been true. James promises, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jam. 4:7). He will flee, but return later, as he did with the patriarch Job (Job 1-2). Trust God and resist the devil!

LOVE MAKES TIME FLY!

Larry R. Ping II

Many things are done in the name of love, just as many things are said in the name of love. Love even overcomes numerous faults of others, whether the misdeeds caused by the faults were ignorantly or purposely done.

Such was the case with Jacob. He first met the “love of his life,” Rachel, as folks gathered to give drink to their flocks (Gen. 29:1-11). Rachel’s father, Laban, asked Jacob to select a wage for the work he was doing. Laban thought Jacob should not “*serve for...nothing*” (Gen. 29:15).

Instead of asking for money, or even possessions, Jacob said “*I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter*” (Gen. 29:18).

Seven years seems like a long time. It is roughly 2500 days. American involvement in World Wars I

and II each were shorter, and the bloodiest and costliest war in America, the Civil War, lasted for four years.

Yet, at the end of Jacob’s seven years, the Bible records “*they seemed like only a few days to him because of the love he had for her*” (Gen. 29:20). What a statement! The rest of the story in Gen. 29 is one of lies and deceit on the part of Laban, producing the need for another seven years of Jacob’s employment. Jacob’s love for Rachel truly “made time fly,” and permitted him to look past the obvious deception of Laban.

On this day, may husbands love their wives in such a way that “time flies.” May wives love their husbands in such a fashion that seven years goes by in a blink. May parents love their children in such a way that they know it, see it, sense it, and feel it, and learn to love their children likewise.

May we show love to everyone in spite of what they say to and about us, in spite of obvious attempts to defraud us and despite the fact others show little love to us. God loved us, and gave His Son while we were sinners (Rom. 5:8). The challenge for us is, in the name of love, to do the same thing in our lives!

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth”

(I Cor. 13:4-8)

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm