

# ***Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart***

## ***Part 5- "You Can Have the Kingdom Without the Cross"***

**Texts:** Matthew 4: Luke 4;

### **Intro:**

**Satan's offer is always the same:** *authority without surrender, glory without death, kingdom without cross.*

**Jesus' answer is also always the same:** *resurrection only comes through obedience.*

I used a book given to me by Phil as a great resource for today's sermon. It's called *"The Life and Times of Jesus The Messiah by Alfred Edersheim 1912"*

This book has a Chapter just on the Temptation of Christ from a Messianic Jewish perspective. I read parts of the Chapter (these are old books, those chapters are as long as some books today). So I asked Logos Bible software, to summarize that chapter for me.

This is what Logos came up with:

### **Core Revelation (from the book's chapter logic)**

- After baptism affirmation, **the Spirit drives Jesus into testing**—because the Kingdom isn't built by hype, but by **submitted sonship**.
- The temptations are not random; they are a **contest over the "how"** of Messiah's mission.
- The three temptations are really **one war**:  
**Will vs. Will** → *Will I stay under the Father's way when another way looks faster?*

## **I. THE RESURRECTED HEART JESUS MODELS**

### **A. Resurrection heart refuses self-rule when needs are real**

#### **Temptation 1: Physical Appetite — "Stones to Bread"**

*<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

*<sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Mt 4: 1-4)*

**Satan's shortcut:** "Meet your legitimate need independently. Use power to escape weakness."

**Jesus' response:** "Man shall not live by bread alone..."

This brings me to Mark 2 where Jesus responds to a question by the Pharisees...<sup>18</sup>*Once when John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, some people came to Jesus and asked, "Why don't your disciples fast like John's disciples and the Pharisees do?"<sup>19</sup>Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. They can't fast while the groom is with them. <sup>20</sup>But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.*

Jesus is saying fasting would express a deep longing for Christ's return—a yearning so intense that other concerns, including food, fade into insignificance. The passage establishes fasting as fundamentally about absence and anticipation rather than resistance.

Jesus fasted in the desert to prepare himself for Satan's temptation, making Himself rely upon God's dependence, forcing Him to draw from the Father's power and believe in His strength. Because Fasting reveals what controls us, things we mask with food and comfort things.

But the primary purpose that Jesus reveal fasting is for is not spiritual fortification, that is used as a byproduct of His core hearts response. Jesus clearly provides an eschatological longing (Longing for His Return) as the main purpose of fasting... branched off that we use it to bind us in obedience to the Father's will and rely on His strength. Fortification is a secondary benefit.....but both are rooted in surrender to the Father.

#### **Resurrection heart being formed**

- **Need is not lord.** Hunger is real, but it doesn't get to command.
- **Power is not permission.** Jesus refuses to use divine ability to avoid human dependence.
- **The Father's Word is life.** Jesus chooses *trust over control*.

#### **Death-to-power principle**

- The first thing that must die is the instinct to say:  
**"If I have power, I don't have to wait on God."**

#### **Discipleship application**

- When you're depleted, stressed, lonely, or pressured—Satan's "bread" is often **anything that gives relief without obedience:**  
coping sins, impulsive choices, shortcuts, manipulation, numbing, revenge.

**"God is our refuge and strength"** (Psalm 46:1)

**"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"** (Psalm 23:1)

## **B. Resurrection heart refuses religious performance and refuses to use God as a tool**

**Temptation 2:** Testing God — "Pinnacle of the Temple"

*<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup>and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"*

*<sup>7</sup>Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" (Mt 4: 5-7)*

How many of us are transactional with God, we want evidence of our "supposed" faithfulness to God to translate into things turning out exactly how we want them to be. Our plan, our remedy, our solution. We expect spectacular intervention on our terms, and then we will honor Him.

Satan invites Jesus to throw Himself from the temple pinnacle, citing Scripture about divine protection. Satan is weaponizing God's own promises to force God's hands.

\*\*Christianity as a whole operates in this realm, if we **treat God like a vending machine**. You insert the right formula—speak it with enough conviction, give enough money, claim it boldly enough—and God is obligated to deliver.

**The problem?** This inverts the entire relationship. True faith humbly submits to God’s will, praying “**Your will be done,**” *not* “**my will be done.**” Jesus refused to jump from the temple because doing so would have been *demanding* God prove Himself on Jesus’ terms, not accepting God’s terms.

When these movements fail—when the healing doesn’t come, the wealth doesn’t materialize, the miracle doesn’t happen—believers face a devastating choice: either God lied, or they didn’t have enough faith. Many become disillusioned and abandon Him

The real tragedy is that they were never taught to trust God’s character and plan; they were taught to manipulate God’s power.

*A resurrected heart posture means the opposite: trusting God even when He doesn’t deliver what you demand, because His faithfulness isn’t dependent on your circumstances changing.*

**Satan’s shortcut:** “Force God to prove Himself. Turn trust into spectacle.”

**Jesus’ response:** “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

**Resurrection heart being formed**

- **Faith does not demand a sign to obey.**
- **Scripture is not a weapon for self-will.** (Even Satan can quote Bible words.)
- **Sonship doesn’t need theater.** Jesus won’t build credibility by drama.

**Death-to-power principle**

- Another thing that must die is the urge to say:  
“**God must perform on my terms so I can feel safe.**”

**Discipleship application**

- This shows up when people:
  - make reckless decisions and call it “faith”
  - use Bible verses to justify pride, control, and impulsiveness
  - require constant proof, constant signs, constant public validation

**C. Resurrection heart refuses influence without obedience—crowns without crosses**

**Temptation 3: Idolatry & Power — “Kingdoms of the World”**

*<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil \*took Him to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus \*said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” (Mt. 4: 8-10)*

The third temptation exposes the deepest threat to a resurrected heart posture: **competing allegiances**. Satan presents Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, offering them if Jesus will worship him.

This is about our loyalty... Who will you serve? Who owns your worship?

For those of us on the journey to a resurrected heart posture, this **lesson is critical**. We live surrounded by seductive images that tempt our fallen eyes to lift toward worldliness. The modern world constantly offers us competing kingdoms: status, wealth, influence, comfort, pleasure, recognition. Each whispers the same lie Satan offered Jesus—these things will satisfy you if you’ll just redirect your worship toward them.

Jesus’ resurrection changes everything here, He offers HOPE in despair that His promises are true. His resurrection, His imminent coming destroys any power sin claims to have, and ceases any temptation allurements.

*A resurrected heart recognizes that in God’s presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore, because He is trustworthy.*

**Satan’s shortcut:** “I’ll give you authority, impact, and reach—if you bow.”

**Jesus’ response:** “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God... only shalt thou serve.”

#### **Resurrection heart being formed**

- **The Kingdom is not worth it if it costs worship.**
- **Impact without purity is Satanic success.**
- Jesus refuses a **crossless kingdom**, because that would be a different kingdom entirely.

#### **Death-to-power principle**

- The deepest thing that must die is the desire to say:  
**“I’ll take the results—even if I have to compromise the worship.”**

#### **Discipleship application**

- This is the temptation of:
  - platform without character
  - leadership without submission
  - justice without humility
  - “winning” without holiness
  - ministry that avoids suffering, repentance, and surrender

## **II. WHAT SATAN IS REALLY OFFERING IN ALL THREE**

**Satan is offering Jesus the Kingdom without the Cross—authority without surrender—glory without death.**

What Jesus is really choosing

**Jesus chooses the Father’s way:**

- dependence over self-supply
- obedience over spectacle
- worship over power

That is **resurrection-centered discipleship:**

God’s life flowing through a surrendered will.

## **III. WHAT OUR FAITH HINGES ON**

Resurrection is the nerve center of our faith! The resurrection seems impossible—and it is! Which is precisely why it matters so much.

**Here's the paradox:** many rejected the resurrection as unbelievable—the thought that God would allow His own Son to be born in poverty and lowliness and then suffer and die for the salvation of the disobedient and ungrateful, and that anyone could be raised from the dead, was an offense to beliefs learned from childhood.

The resurrection violates every natural law we observe. Dead people stay dead. Yet this impossibility is where faith begins.

Why is overcoming this unbelief the crux of our faith? Because if the resurrection didn't happen and Christ is dead, then our faith is in vain.

Everything hangs on this single hinge.

But here's what transforms unbelief into conviction: for many who have experienced Jesus, it was good news, just what they most needed in their lives, and it was good news that was confirmed by the love and mercy and peace and belonging that they experienced in the church—a reality which had no other explanation than that Christ was alive again and working powerfully in the hearts of believers through his Spirit.

The resurrection isn't abstract theology—it's *lived experience*. When you begin to trust it, everything shifts. True joy is a joy that is not subject to ever-changing circumstances. It is a joy that is grounded in truth.

This is why the last two statements in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation work:

*A resurrected heart posture means the opposite: trusting God even when He doesn't deliver what you demand, because His faithfulness isn't dependent on your circumstances changing.*

*A resurrected heart recognizes that in God's presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore, because He is trustworthy.*

because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that every promise he made will be fulfilled. There will be a final accounting; an actual time is coming when evil will be once and for all defeated.<sup>2</sup> That future certainty anchors present trust.

When you genuinely believe the resurrection happened, you stop demanding God prove Himself **now**. You can endure suffering without bitterness because the resurrection of Christ means to Christians today that the love of God is steadfast, that the mercy of God is sure, that the peace of God is real, that the promises of God are **trustworthy**.

Joy emerges not from comfortable circumstances but from unshakeable confidence in God's character and His promises. That's the victory—not happiness, but deep, unshakeable joy rooted in a future you're certain will arrive.