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PROPHECIES FOR TCOO - 11 - 02

DETAILS OF
MY LIFE

PART 2

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(All prophecies are Jesus speaking)

Time Alone with My Father

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! ⁽¹⁾

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. ⁽²⁾

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. ⁽³⁾

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. ⁽⁴⁾

Significant Choices

I knew that God was in control, that in the flesh I could only do so much, and that the real works and the real miracles had to be God's doing in the spirit. It was God, the Father, Who had to set up the miracles, Who did the miracles, Who engineered the timing and the events that took place.

My flesh was as limited as your flesh. I could only be in one place at a time, usually ministering to a few at a time, outside of the times that I ministered to the large crowds. But the personal times that I could spend helping My disciples or those in need were as limited as you find. There were only the same 24 hours in a day, some of which had to be spent sleeping or eating or ministering to the flesh. I knew the needs of My flock and I was as limited as you are in meeting those needs in the flesh.

But in the spirit I was able to accomplish the most. By casting My cares upon the Father and walking in love and faith, My effect upon those I ministered to was maximized. If I had not cast My cares upon the Father, I wouldn't have walked in faith and trust; I would have gotten consumed with the concerns and burdens and worries of the flesh, and I wouldn't have ministered the gifts of the Spirit to My disciples or those who followed Me. I had to utterly cast Myself upon the will of My Father and get My signals straight to accomplish His will in My life. ⁽⁵⁾

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. ⁽⁶⁾

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. ⁽⁷⁾

Get away like I did--somehow, some way, some place--for quiet time with Me and Me alone. When it seems difficult and you find no place of refuge, ask of Me, and I will supply. Remember how I got up early and went out, up into the mountain to pray? I had to, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to carry on. But when I did, it was so wonderful! In those times I was able to fill up and be refreshed. I would breathe of the Heavenly air and receive power--such magnetic power from on high!

Please remember to take this time. You're going to need it even more than I did, because as I promised, you are going to do even greater works than I did. The world is even darker now in these Last Days, and you are going to need even more power than I did when I walked in the flesh. You are going to need it in order to be able to stem the tide of iniquity that has covered the Earth. But don't worry! You've got nothing to fear. I'm right by your side, and I'll pump you with My golden seeds of power as you come lie in our bed of love. It's going to be just fine. This mission is going to work just as I have planned. ⁽⁸⁾

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). ⁽⁹⁾

I spent many, many hours in prayer during My time on Earth because I really understood how vital fervent prayer was, how incredibly powerful it was, how it was able to make all the difference in the world. It's a basic spiritual principle; it's not a new concept. And yet all too few of you use this weapon as often as you should. I got up early in the morning and communed with My Father in prayer. I knew that if I was going to be successful in My mission--My huge mission with so much to be done in so little time--I had to take that time. I had to get up early and lick the Devil first in prayer.

And now you have the power of the keys, which enhances your prayers and their effect many times over. My loves, you must see the awesomeness of this weapon and you must use it so much more than you have been. If each Family member would use the weapon of prayer more actively and more skillfully, you would be an unstoppable force!

Follow My example, My brides; do as I did. When I was faced with the impossibility of raising Lazarus from the dead, what did I do? I lifted up My eyes and heart to My Father in prayer and I praised Him for hearing Me. I praised Him for the answer even before I had seen it. I said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I know that Thou hearest Me always" (John 11:41-42). Just as My Father always heard Me, so do I always hear you, My

brides. ⁽¹⁰⁾

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. ⁽¹¹⁾

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 this Family 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."

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. ⁽¹²⁾

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. ⁽¹³⁾

1. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:7-25
2. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:19-34
3. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 1 #3546:35-37, 40-51
4. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:48-54
5. Being Re-created! #3346:10-12
6. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:5-8
7. Be a Missionary! #3135:32-35
8. The Summit '96 Letters--Part 6 #3092:44, 45
9. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:44-46
10. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:29-31
11. Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:26-41
12. Do the Humble Thing! #3251:75-90
13. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:32-38