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PROPHECIES FOR TODAY

11 - 03

# DETAILS OF MY LIFE - Part 3

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(All prophecies are Jesus speaking)

## My Battle in the Wilderness

(Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)

Come, let Me tell you of My fight. When I was out there in the wilderness all that time, it was a battle royal with the Evil One. All Hell was let loose on Me. Satan fought with every evil thing, and every thought, and every evil doubt he could find to hurl at Me, to try to get Me to give up. He tried absolutely every single one in the book.

I battled as I was buffeted about with giants of doubt flying overhead! Yes, the Tempter came to Me in the wilderness--the wilderness of My mind--and he let loose all his wild beasts of doubts! Monsters surrounded Me on every side, in an attempt to devour and destroy Me. There were vicious attacks on every side. I was tempted by Satan and was with the wild beasts out there in the wilderness. These were the beasts I had to fight off. These were the beasts I had to rebuke. These were the beasts I had to gain victory over--the beasts of doubts!

First it started out subtly, and I didn't even realize they were doubts, these beasts that surrounded Me. They seemed harmless, but then as he tried to lure Me, as Satan tempted Me, I saw the potential; I saw where these doubts could lead, should I accept them. I saw they would only grow. I saw that if I would have accepted them, they would only have grown into wild beasts--wild beasts of doubts that would have devoured and destroyed Me. So I fought! I fought and I battled and tried to ward them off. I fought long and I fought hard and My strength grew weak.

I had not fallen, but I was growing weak, because I was being buffeted about on every side. It was My testing time, and the Tempter was let loose upon Me. Then I realized that I could no longer fight on in My human strength. I realized that I had to have a greater power to win this victory. I had not given in. I had not bade them stay with Me. I did not want to accept these beasts of doubts. But in My flesh, I could not muster up the strength to fight on.

Yes, I was tempted in all points just like you, yet without sin. Without sin, because I did not give in, I did not give up. Without sin, because although the doubts and discouragement and despair were hitting Me from every side, I did not accept them. I was tempted to, but I did not accept them. <sup>(1)</sup>

I didn't know how long I was going to be there. I was given no time frame, nor was I told, "You will only be there 40 days, and at the very end of that time, when You are at Your weakest and faint from hunger, the Devil is really going to lay into You and try You and tempt You in order to test Your limits and completely break You. But don't worry, if You can withstand at that point, You will come out the victor." Had I known that, My desert sojourn

would not have been the test My Father intended it to be. It would not have succeeded in testing Me to My limits and breaking Me to the point that I was totally and utterly desperate and at the end of My rope, and the victory would not have been as triumphant.

Every moment of every day that I spent there in that desert place I was badgered and hounded by the Enemy. He was relentless and he didn't give up taunting Me. It seemed as if it'd never end. I knew in My heart that eventually it had to, because I knew My destiny was not to die in the desert. But nevertheless, the time I spent there felt like an eternity, because I didn't know when it would be up and I would be delivered.

Had I known exactly when and how it would end, I would not have been as desperate. I would have been counting the days until My deliverance and biding My time, waiting for it all to end. I probably wouldn't have been as relentless in My counterattacks on the Devil. I needed that time of testing to develop a perfect hatred for him, and to learn his tactics. I needed to know how it felt as a human to be badgered by the Enemy. As you see, My Father, in His wisdom, hid the details from Me, as it was My final preparation before My ministry started in earnest. That experience is what I needed for My preparation.

So it is with any battle you go through. Tests, trials, and battles are all for a purpose. I intend for them to teach you, to strengthen you, to make you a better fighter, just as My time in the desert did for Me.

Put yourself in My shoes for a moment, and imagine that you are where I was. Imagine being in the desert for 40 days, fasting. Imagine relentless harassment by the Enemy that does not cease, day or night. Imagine continually counterattacking the Devil's lies and propaganda and seeing him return again and again for another round. Imagine the hopelessness I was tempted with and the feelings of discouragement and despair when at the dawn of every new day I was faced with another round with the Tempter. I used everything I had and the Enemy still came back for more. I felt forsaken and forgotten. I felt frustrated that no matter what I did, no matter what tack I took, no matter what weapon of My arsenal I used, the Devil came back to dish out more. <sup>(2)</sup>

It was a battle royal, and it was a test. It was a test that I had to pass. I had to go through it, so I would know how you, My precious ones, are feeling. That time there in the wilderness, that time of testing, I thought it would never end. When I realized to what scale these monsters of doubts were capable of growing, I heard My Father's voice. It was still, and it was small, but crystal clear, as He said to Me, "Son, I am fighting for You, that Your faith fail not." That is all I heard, in one distinct moment, and that voice gave Me the courage to carry on.

As I heard His voice, I fell to My knees and I cried out with the loudest cries I ever uttered in My entire life until that time! I fell down weeping and crying and pleading to My Father with all that was within Me! I fell down in utter desperation and asked Him to please deliver Me from these attacks of doubts that were plaguing Me on every side.

I made a decision, and that decision was that I wanted to fight! I wanted to go for it! I wanted to stand! I wanted deliverance! Up until that time, I was on the brink. Up until that time I was still in the valley of decision. I hadn't sinned yet, because I hadn't decided, so Satan was trying hard to sway Me. He fought hard to win Me. Yes, he wanted to convert Me.

But in that moment, when I cried out for help with all that was within Me, it was done. I made the decision to say yes. I cried out to My Father with strong tongues and pleading, saying, "Deliver Me this day! Fill Me with Your power, that I may fight, that I may stand strong in Your might and be delivered! I don't want this way! I don't accept these doubts! Give Me Your strength, and take them away!"

It was from that desperation, from that decision to yield My all, from that plea for deliverance that My eyes were opened. It was from that deliverance that I was able to find renewed strength, because My Father heard and He answered. My Father was there all the time. He was waiting and ready, but I had to decide. I had to choose. I had to reach out and receive help from His hand. It was from that deliverance that there came the words, "Get thee hence, Satan! Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve!" As soon as I called on My Father to help Me, in that instant I was able to avail Myself of the truth of His promise.

My Father's voice had been heard, and I won the fight. In that moment, I got on the road to victory--many victories. Yes, to many victories, for there were many battles to come and many victories to be won. (3)

I share this with you to encourage you that number one, I have been through what you go through when faced with a relentless battle that never seems to cease. It will eventually cease, My loves. It will eventually stop, just as My 40 days in the wilderness ended.

Number two, never underestimate the effect you are having on the Enemy in a battle. No matter how strong he seems, each blow you give him does render him a bit weaker. It may not appear that way at first, but trust Me, it does weaken him, until finally he will give up and leave. That is what happened with Me in the wilderness: All throughout those 40 days that we duked it out, he was getting pummeled--he just didn't let on.

This is what can be deceptive about the Enemy. Remember, he is a deceiver and a liar (John 8:44), and just because he seems to keep coming back at you doesn't mean you aren't landing some blows that really hurt him. I found that out at the very end, when as I said, I only uttered five words and he'd had it and quit. It was then that I realized that all along I had been having an effect on him; he just wasn't going to give Me the satisfaction of knowing that My weapons were breaking him down and defeating him.

Number three, because I have been touched with the feelings of your infirmities, know that I understand what you are going through and will be with you each step of the way. I have been where you are, through the darkest nights and the most discouraging days. I have felt weak and helpless against the Enemy's attacks. I have hit him with all that I was worth, and still felt no progress was made. I have been in your shoes, through the most trying of circumstances, and yet I was delivered, as you will be.

So next time you find yourself in the thick of the battle, when it seems it will never end, and you are doing all you can to fight the Enemy and still feel progress is not made, think of Me and My time in the wilderness when I fought the Devil for 40 days. Even as My Father was with Me during that time, so will I be with you. Even though it felt as though My time in the wilderness was never going to end, it eventually did. And even though I felt that I wasn't

making progress in dealing the Enemy a blow that would knock him out, he was weakening, and eventually was defeated and the battle was over. <sup>(4)</sup>

The Father allowed that time of testing. It was necessary. I had to go through it, as I was about to embark on the greatest mission of all mankind. If I could not have licked the Devil then, in that wilderness, I would not have been able to go on to complete My life's mission that was ahead.

Just think, if he could have stopped Me then, you would not be here! So he fought hard and long, and he fought in very subtle ways. He used Scripture in very sly ways, intertwined in a tapestry of deceit and lies, carefully woven together with logical, reasonable, understandable, sensible reasoning that appeared to be good and true. Satan knows the Word, yet he twists, he contorts and he connives. He adds a touch of truth with the lie in hopes that he can lure.

It looked so good. The things he hit Me with and offered Me were very appealing, and I was tempted! Just think, all the kingdoms of the world! That was an inviting offer! Here I was, the son of a humble carpenter. I was grieved with the poverty and injustice and the extreme conditions of the world around Me. My people were poor and persecuted under Roman rule. All about Me was a world of injustice and problems--so many problems. The thought of all the world's riches and what I could do with them was very tempting. Maybe I could have made things better. Certainly it would have solved the financial difficulties. I could have used these riches to sort things out. That's what the Devil told Me, and it did look inviting.

But Satan knew I really wouldn't quite go for that right off, because after all, My Father's riches were far greater. So he had to try to get Me to doubt My Father, to doubt He really would help Me and come to My aid. Satan tried to get Me to think My Father had shut Me out of the halls of Heaven and abandoned Me on Earth. After all, Satan told Me, if My Father had abandoned Me and had disowned Me, then why not take this next offer of all these riches of the kingdoms of the Earth? Pretty sly trick.

Here I was in My fleshly body, and life was sometimes hard. I had grown up seeing the poverty and despair of the people, the plight of the poor, and the oppression of the Roman rule. Things around Me were pretty desperate. Now think about this. Think about what Satan was offering Me--all the kingdoms of the world! That was a pretty big job offer! You talk about System jobs--that was the humdinger! I could have ruled it all! It was tempting, very tempting. But deep in My heart, the voice came to Me, "It is better to eat herbs than a stalled ox, or to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

During that time I spent in the wilderness having it out with Satan himself, I learned where the real battle was. The battle was in My heart and mind; it was over My very soul, and the Tempter was using these doubts to attack Me. For one, he was trying hard to get Me to doubt My Father's blessing and His riches. He was trying to get Me to doubt My inheritance. He sought to slay Me through so many doubts. But by crying out in desperation to My Father, and in asking Him to fill Me with His Truth, I was able to clearly see His plan. I was able to see that all the wealth of the world was nothing.

I did not know it at first, but as soon as I made the decision, as soon as I said yes to My Father, as soon as I cried out to Him in total desperation, pleading for deliverance from the doubts that were trying to take hold of My mind and My spirit, He delivered Me. And it was from that time on that My eyes were opened, and I could begin to see more clearly the true battle that was raging. I could see the hypocrisy in it all, that all these riches and kingdoms of the Earth were going to come to nothing. They were nothing but a facade, hiding the heinous reality behind them. My eyes were opened from that point.

And do you know what happened? Do you know what My Father did to help Me continue on? In His infinite mercy and all-encompassing Love, He sent His angels to minister to Me. Oh, that was such sweet relief! It was sweet relief and a strengthening for the days ahead. It was the strengthening I needed for My ministry that was about to begin.

The angels came and we had sweet communion. They poured out the Word upon Me. How do you think they ministered to Me? Did you ever think about it? They ministered to Me in body and spirit, and they fed Me the thing I most desperately needed. They fed Me the Word from the very hand of God. Yes, they brought Me the pure, unadulterated Word from My Father above.

I feasted on it! I drank it in! They showered Me with it from head to toe, and My healing began. Yes, My healing. Fighting it out with Satan like that in the wilderness took its toll. It was a long, hard fight, and I had to be restrengthened, re-envisioned, refilled. That was the beginning of a whole new life for Me. From that time on I realized that I had to always take enough time for rest and refilling, that I had to have My Father's Word, for that was the source of My power. From that time on I began to always take those moments to get away, to rise early in the morning if I had to, and go out to a quiet place and receive this strengthening from Heaven.

That is when My ministry really began. All the years prior to that were my preparation. Although I already had a measure of My Father's Spirit and great power, this time of temptation, fighting these battles and winning the victory over doubts there in the wilderness, brought forth a great decision, which resulted in this deliverance. I overcame! I fought and I won!

When I was in the wilderness, at times it seemed the battle would not end. The battle was fierce, and I was tempted to give up. But through it all, and through My deliverance, I was able to receive even greater power. I was free from the hindrances of Satan as I was thrust out in a new wave of witnessing that the world had never known before.

Yes, I was delivered there in the wilderness. I had to get desperate. I had to fight the battle of doubts, and I had to lick the Devil right then and there, or I would not have been able to continue on. And Satan was fighting hard! He was trying to stop My ministry, My testimony. He was trying to destroy Me and you and the people of this world. He knew if he could stop Me then and there, he would win the battle of the Earth.

It was a testing time and a purging time. My ministry and My mission were so great that I needed to be purified. I would not have been able to continue on had I not been. The stakes were too high. I could not have doubts plaguing My mind in the days ahead. Therefore, I had to take a stand. I had to pass all those tests. I could not escape the tests, for I am your High

Priest and I am touched with the feeling of your battles, your trials. I had to be touched, so I could stand here today with conviction to fight for you. But I passed! I passed, and I am here to tell about it. I am here to fight for you.

When I made that decision to desperately call out to My Father with all that was within Me, He sent His angels to minister to Me. They ministered to Me well. They ministered to Me the Word, and through that Word I carried on. That was My secret weapon. That is the only thing that I could fire back at Satan that would defeat him every time. It did then and it does now, for he hates it. He cannot stand it! He squirms at the very thought of the Word. He begins to shrivel up and vanish at the very utterance of it.

My children, your warfare is not carnal, but it is spiritual, so you must fight in spirit. You must not try to fight in carnal ways. The war of the worlds must be fought and won in the spirit. Everybody's struggle is a spiritual warfare, even those who do not know Me, even the struggles you see all around you in the world. The war for this world is a spiritual warfare, therefore you must fight it in spirit.

You seek to solve your problems in a physical way, but you must fight and win in spirit first. You must fight with spiritual weapons first, for they are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. Mighty! Mighty are they! And you have but to reach out your hand and receive. Receive the spiritual weapons, avail yourself of them, and the doubts and the struggles and the uncertainty will flee.

I received the Word there in the wilderness and I was strengthened. I wielded it hard and fast right back at the Devil, and he had to flee. I had to win that battle, just as you, too, must win the battle.

While there on the mount, I called out to My Father, and He filled Me with His Word, and Satan did flee. And as I began to quote the Word, I was strengthened for the battles ahead. It was My only salvation. From that time on, I had to stay filled up with My Father's promises. The battles grew stronger, but I too, grew stronger, because as I obeyed and as I received the Word, lived in the Word and quoted the Word, I was able to keep My victory.

The victory that overcame the world was My faith in the Word. I overcame even the death of the cross and I am risen. You, too, can overcome the valley of despair by receiving this power.

I had to keep quoting the Word. My faith came, it grew, as I lived in and quoted the Word. As I walked the shores of Galilee, as I healed the sick and tended to the ragged wounds of the lost and the weary, as I loved the woman at the well, as I healed the daughter of Jairus, as I cast out devils, as I raised Lazarus from the dead and brought down miracles and signs and wonders from on high, each time, each of these victories was won through the Word. It was the Word that I quoted. It was the Word that gave Me the power. It was the Word that kept me free from doubts. It was the Word that inoculated Me against the lies of Satan. Staying pumped up with My Father's Word gave Me power to win the victory each and every time.

After My initial victory in the wilderness on the eve of My ministry, I continued to pass through test after test. The tests did not stop. The fiery darts of Satan never ceased to be flung at Me. But I was always able to win the victory, because I wielded My secret weapon. I wielded the Word. I quoted the Word, I banked on the Word, I fought back with the Word, and I

overcame the world through the Word. It was through My faith in the Word. As I began to take even the beginning steps in living the Word, My faith grew; it flourished and continued on.

And it all began with My initial deliverance from doubts that time on the mount, in the wilderness, as I grappled in hand-to-hand combat with Satan himself. That battle, that victory of calling out to My Father, was the beginning process to set My faith in motion. And I grew through the Word. As I listened, as I received, and as I gave it out, I grew in faith. Faith to turn the water into wine grew into greater faith to bring down greater miracles, as I continued on.

It was not that the Devil never hit Me with doubts again. He tried, he fought hard, but it was My living and quoting and staying filled up on the Word that made the difference. The Word was My victory. It was My only hope, and it never failed to see Me through--just as it is your only hope. It will be your victory, and it will never fail to see you through. So live in it, swim in it, claim it, and revel in it. <sup>(5)</sup>

## **My Public Ministry Begins**

I know how it feels to step out into the unknown. It's just plain scary at times. I felt that way when I launched out into My public ministry. I had My Father's promises, I had guaranteed help from Heaven, and My Father had given Me ample inner peace and faith that now was the time, but still it was scary.

It was tough for Me to leave My familiar surroundings, My mother and My siblings and cousins whom I loved. It was difficult to step out of what had become My "comfort zone" into something new. <sup>(6)</sup>

When I launched out in the days of My earthly ministry, I had no earthly shepherds to look to. My Father above and My earthly parents had poured into Me. They had prepared Me, and the time came when I was to move on to a new phase of My life.

There were many times that I felt those around Me did not care, that they did not listen, or were not willing to take correction. I too felt the burden and the strain and the loneliness of leadership, of shepherding; but it was in those times I learned to lean on My Father, to draw strength from Him, and I found faith to carry on.

I passed many long and lonely hours and was tempted by Satan time and again, wondering if it was really worth it all. When My poor bungling babes, and even My most trusted veterans, seemed aloof, irresponsible, distant, and not pulling the load, this was a test for Me. I was a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief--sometimes being tempted to wonder if they would ever catch on. I was tempted many times with an overwhelming feeling of "What is the use?" But this compelled Me to look up, to lean heavily on My Father above. <sup>(7)</sup>

Rising a great while before day, I went out into a solitary place, and there prayed. I needed that time alone. I needed that time between Me and My Father--for refreshing, for clarity of thought, heart and spirit, for those were busy days. I was surrounded by My team, who needed so much care, love and training. There was always so much to teach them. <sup>(8)</sup>



Some of My original disciples were unlearned, some were scholars, but few of them knew about Me and the ways of My Spirit when they started out. They all had to learn about the ways of My Spirit--not according to book knowledge, but according to the spirit of love. <sup>(9)</sup>

They were fun, I enjoyed them! They were wonderful folks. Each one was special, each one was different. Some were simple, some were quite bright and clever, others were talented--special people, I'd say, just like the special people that surround you. Each one had his own mind, his own will, his own heritage and background that made him unique, special and different.

Learning to shepherd and care for them and lead them was a challenge for Me--wooing them, winning them, understanding them, convincing them, cajoling them, staying a step ahead and leading them, encouraging them to follow, even though most of the time I realized that they didn't understand where we were going.

It was a great learning experience for Me, as well as a time of My biggest ministry while on Earth in the flesh. But in order to endure and to perform the role that I was called to play during that time, it was imperative that I had those little times away, those little breaks where I could get strengthened, where I could look down the road. I needed times when I could step back from the face-to-face, hands-on care of those around Me and the immediate situations that I had to deal with continually throughout the day while in action with My team, traveling around witnessing, laying the groundwork for all that was to come in the future. <sup>(10)</sup>

I was a great teacher and My disciples revered My Words. They respected Me and loved Me. However, My Words and My shepherding were not the only things I provided for them. I gave them My heart, I gave them My time, I gave them My friendship. The Bible doesn't record all the times we just enjoyed each other's company.

We had such great times--times of relaxation, times when we would tell stories; times when we would laugh; times when we would talk about their families; the things we liked; the things we wanted to do; our dreams, our aspirations. It was during those times spent together that we grew closer. They saw that I had not come to Earth only to speak My truth and message, but I had come to get to know them, to find out about their hearts, what they thought, how they felt, and to show them that I, too, was a man of similar passions.

My disciples saw that I was someone who could understand their own lacks, failings, and weaknesses. I saw them, understood them, and they were My friends, those I had entrusted with continuing the mission that I had come to Earth to fulfill. <sup>(11)</sup>

I quickly learned that it was going to take a little time. My mission was not going to come about in one swift fell swoop of an overnight change. I found that things were not as I had expected. There I was, so eager to see things change and to win others into the Heavenly realm. But My Father, in His loving wisdom, had a plan, and we're all a part of this plan. I had to come to the realization that I, too, needed to learn further precious lessons.

And so I continued, and I learned through the things that I suffered. I learned through My obedience, as you also will learn through your obedience unto Me. As I kept going, I learned that I could carry Heaven in My heart, and that I could spread it to others. I went, and I

learned that Heaven was in Me, a part of Me, and no man could ever take it away. I went, and I learned that My Father's loving hand would not fail, could not fail. I kept on, and I kept obeying, and the glory of Heaven was made manifest in Me.

As I went, I learned patience, for things were not always as I had expected.

Peter, James, John, Andrew and the others didn't always catch on as quickly as I would have liked. They didn't understand at first when I tried to share with them about the great love in My heart, the great love of Heaven, the great love that I wanted to give. I tried to help them, but they needed time to be able to grasp it all. I tried to explain to them about the glory and the splendor of Heaven. I tried to help them see that they, too, could have it in their hearts, but again, it took some time. They couldn't always see quite as quickly as I had hoped. Each one caught on at a different pace. Each one progressed differently. So I had to go slow. I had to be sensitive to each individual, to each need. I had to handle each tender heart accordingly.

It was a test of My patience and My love. I found that although My Words were important, the living sample of My love was more easily understood. Many times I just needed to take the time to love them, to show the way.

So I kept on, and I learned how to be a plodder. I learned how to take things a step at a time. I learned faith. I learned how to look up to My Father above. I learned how not to give up. I learned many things through that which I suffered.

I missed the constant peacefulness and tranquility that I had known in Heaven, but I soon learned it was right there in My heart all the time. It was always with Me--I just had to tap in and avail Myself of the peace that passed all understanding. I felt the burden and the press of the people. I heard the noise and felt the confusion, the worry and the tension. It was so real, and I was right there in the middle of it. I felt their anxiety, I felt their pain. Through it all, I was touched with the feelings of their infirmities, and I learned compassion and tolerance.

Often I wanted to be able to just snap My fingers and set all things in order. I could have called down all the legions of Heaven to set things straight. But it didn't work that way, and My Father didn't plan it that way. He knew that I needed to learn, and that I would learn, and that the others would eventually learn too, and come around to being set free and following closer. He knew that the lessons I was learning and the choices I was making, and others, too, were of far greater importance and would bear far greater fruit. He had a plan and purpose and it was all being accomplished.

With each passing minute, with each test of My patience and each test of My faith, I was learning, and I was becoming what the Father wanted Me to become. I was being groomed for greater things ahead. I was being prepared to face the greatest decision of My life. My Father knew the importance of this great decision. He knew how much was hinging on My weak shoulders, yet He was so lovingly preparing Me, teaching Me, guiding Me, strengthening Me. And the others were learning. They, too, were becoming what He wanted them to become. All things were working together for our good.

I was learning how to pray. With each situation, each difficulty that would arise, when I was tempted to lose My patience, lose My temper, lose My cool, when I didn't know what to do, I had no place to look but up--up to Heaven, up to My Father. And through it all He taught Me how to pray. Yes, I learned all these things when I went out from My bubble of love, this

Heavenly abode. I had all the truth of Heaven within, and yet it took time to teach others. It took patience to love. It took wisdom to give. It took longsuffering to keep plodding along day by day.

In the days of My flesh when there was a task too big, too hard for human hands, I came to know the full power of My Father. I learned to lean on Him with all My heart and all My soul and all I had in Me, and in this leaning I found My strength.

I knew that Heaven was real. I knew the love of the Father. I knew the splendor of Heaven! This kept Me going, and it will keep you going too. It lived in My heart, and no problem was too big, no difficulty was too hard, no mountain was too high to take that away. As long as I kept My eyes on Heaven, I was sustained. As long as I looked to My Father, He gave the answers that I needed. <sup>(12)</sup>

I faced extreme, difficult conditions. Not only were My disciples and I living in very close quarters, but many times the extreme discomforts of living outdoors much of the time took a heavy toll on us physically. While living on the road, we often faced the uncertainty of not knowing where we would lay our heads at night, and this was difficult.

It was a fight and took concentrated effort on My part to find a place of quiet and rest where the crowds could not molest. Everywhere I walked, everywhere I went, I was in demand. I was in the limelight of the crowds who expected Me to pour out, or I had to fight off scoffers, scorners and those who would seek to do Me harm. This often was draining, and I was sometimes tempted to fall under the weight of it all. I lived in extreme conditions on every side. I felt the pressure in the confines of My close fellowship with the 12, and from the multitudes to whom we ministered. <sup>(13)</sup>

When I was faced with the crowds and the multitudes, I knew I could not solve the problems. How was I ever going to come up with enough food to feed 5,000 people from a mere five loaves and two fishes? That was an impossible task! But I did not worry about it! I could not worry about it. I only had to accept, by saying, "Yes, Father, You are right, I cannot do this. I cannot, but You can." And My Father did! He did what I, in My Own strength, could not do. (See John 5:19.)

And you know, I did not feed those 5,000 by organizing fishing boats and sending My disciples out to catch fish first thing. I fed the 5,000 by quiet trust and full assurance, knowing that what My Father had promised, He was also able to perform. All I did was look up and cast My burden on My Father. He sustained Me, and He sustained the crowds, and 5,000 ate that day. But I had to truly trust first. I had to take the stand of faith first for My Father to do the miracle. Afterward came the organization and distribution of the goods, but the quiet trust and the stand of faith came first.

The situations and the problems and the burdens and the presses of the people about Me were many--the aches and the pains and the agonies of the people, the cries about Me of, "It can't be done!" Many of My followers were tossed and tumbled about with doubts and discouragement on every side. I heard the cries and the groanings, and they weighed heavily upon Me. The problems at times seemed insurmountable--and they were! It was too hard for

human hands. Yet that is when I learned to truly trust, to truly lean, and to cast My cares upon My Father. That is when I learned not to settle for the human, but to trust in the divine. <sup>(14)</sup>

In My time of launching out, during those precious years, I learned to avail Myself to the full of My Father's close shepherding. Those times, those trials, those temptations that passed My way served only to drive Me into a greater seeking, a closer communication with My Father than I had ever known.

It was through all this--through My testing, and being thrust out on My Own--that I grew and I overcame. It was during this precious time that I received direct, personal guidance from My Father's hand. I received direct, pure, and personal guidance, direct shepherding from Above. <sup>(15)</sup>

I faced many, many long lonely hours, and I longed to have that direct, face-to-face, personal contact with My Father above. I longed for those days of Heaven I once knew, where I was protected within Our bubble of counsel and fellowship, and where I had always received direct, loving oversight. I even came to the point, in a lonely moment, when I felt so forsaken and I was tempted, asking My Father, "Why have You forsaken Me?", for I felt the pressures and the burdens and the loneliness of leadership.

For it was through all these testings, it was through this precious time that I grew into full stature. It was through all these experiences and times of loneliness, when I was tempted to despair, that My direct link to Heaven was established. It was during this time that I was put to the test, that I was able to lean wholly on My Father above, and in leaning, find My strength. It was in those lonely, dark hours that I found in all My leaning that His strength was enough to see Me through.

It was out of what seemed like deep, dark experiences that I discovered the power I had at My fingertips, and not only at My fingertips, but within Me. It was through these trying times that I grew to learn that all this was necessary to make Me into what I needed to be. For had I not passed through these testings--had any of the circumstances been different--I would not have been so desperate to call on My Father. I never would have learned what He was able to do through Me, through My frail fleshly state. I learned that in My flesh I could do nothing, but in the power of the Spirit, through these deep experiences and trying times, as I called on My Father, I was able to avail Myself of His full power.

I became flesh that I might fight for you, that I might understand you, that I might be your Intercessor, that I might be your Good Shepherd. <sup>(16)</sup>

My whole life on Earth was what taught Me compassion. Each one I taught, each one I healed, each one whose life I touched, I felt their pain, I experienced their suffering, I understood the battles they faced.

I couldn't live as a blind man from birth. I couldn't be the woman with the issue of blood who endured great pain and agony of the flesh. I couldn't be the leper who had endured years of being an outcast and watched in agony as his flesh slowly died and fell away. I couldn't watch My child die before My eyes and feel the hopelessness of being unable to prevent it. I

could not have lived all these things in just one body. But what gave Me the compassion and the understanding, what made Me your High Priest Who is touched with the feelings of your infirmities and was in all points tempted as you are, is that the Father allowed Me to supernaturally experience the pain, the suffering, and the struggles in each life I touched (Hebrews 4:15).

I couldn't actually live through them all in real time. My physical body could not have borne that and still fulfilled My purpose on Earth. But I was allowed to feel each person's loss, to feel their sorrow and suffering, and to understand, so that I would have the motivation to fulfill My task. Each experience helped to strengthen My conviction that following through with what My Father had commissioned Me to do was the only way to deliver you. <sup>(17)</sup>

## **The Right Perspective Regarding My Flesh-and-Blood Relations**

When I was on Earth and I was full swing into My ministry, I had to seek My Father for the right attitude on how to interact and communicate with My earthly mother and father, and My brothers and sisters. I found that a prophet has no honor in his own land and among his own kinsmen (Mark 6:4). The familiarity was strong with those who watched Me grow up, and when the Holy Spirit descended upon Me and I received the anointing for My ministry, it was still difficult for those who had known Me all my life to look beyond the flesh. They had always thought of Me in a certain way, as a lowly carpenter and nothing more. Their unbelief was great, and because of this I couldn't do mighty works among them (Matthew 13:53-58).

I tried to deliver the message to My Own kin, but when it became apparent they were not going to change, I had to seek My Father for the right perspective regarding My flesh-and-blood relations. He helped Me see that "My mother and brethren are those who hear the Word and do it" (Luke 8:21). When I came to this realization, I was then able to establish My priorities. There were times when I simply had to tell My relatives that I had to be about My Heavenly Father's business.

As My Father told Me, I tell you today: If you don't love Me far more than your own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters-even more than your own life-you cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:26). And to love Me far more than all these others is to put Me first in every area of your life. It's to do My will-to preach My Gospel and be about My work, rather than spending too much of your time socializing with those who have no intention of doing My will, or who want to pull you away from doing it.

With few exceptions, those of your flesh and blood will be a pull in the wrong direction. Mine were, and in getting My priorities straight, I had to often put off seeing them, as you can see in My Word. My mother and brethren came to Me one day while I was preaching to a large crowd, and My disciples told Me that they wanted to speak with Me. I responded that My mother and My brethren were those who hear the Word of God and do it, and I went about My more important work of preaching the message I was sent to preach (Mark 3:31-35).

It's not that I didn't love My mother and My brethren. I loved them dearly. But I knew that what was most important, even more important than My fleshly ties, was obeying My

Father in Heaven, doing His will, proclaiming His truth, and fulfilling the mission I came to Earth for. <sup>(18)</sup>

## **Standing Out from Society**

During the 40 days I spent in the wilderness (Mark 1:13), I fought one battle that was not recorded. One of the things I had to fight the hardest during that time was the realization that as I stepped out to serve the Father and fulfill My destiny, I would be placing My earthly family in an awkward position. I knew My mother would stand by Me in the end, but I also knew that she would be torn. I knew My brothers would have to turn away from Me in order to save face in their community. And I knew My mother would be torn between what they complained about concerning Me and what she knew was God's will in My life.

It is not unusual for only one or maybe two members of a family to rise above the norm and be different and unique. I often have allowed this type of situation to sift My children. I was sifted in the same manner, so I understand how difficult and trying it is. I know how to overcome, because I fought this discouragement in the desert, and with My Father's help I won. And now I wish to give you that strength of vision as well.

In the wilderness I cried out to My Father to renew My vision and bolster My faith. I asked Him to show Me what would happen if I yielded to My brothers and the way they were pulling Me. He did. He showed Me clearly. One was a path that led to eternal life for My brothers and all of My loved ones, including you. The other was a life of clay, being one of the ants in the anthill, not making enough difference to be remembered for more than a generation after I died. <sup>(19)</sup>

## **Honor Your Parents**

Even though I had difficulties with some of My family, others of them came through and supported Me. At times My mother did not understand why I did not give her more honor, the kind of honor that other sons bestowed on their mothers. My mother did not understand why I did not honor her by being more of a support to her in the natural, as other sons were.

The care that sons gave to their -mothers was a sign of their honor. So because I had to be about My Father's business, and was called to travel around in service to Him, I wasn't able to serve her and be there for her as she would have liked Me to. But because of the sacrifices she made in allowing Me to serve My Father in Heaven, she received greater honor from Him.

Honor your parents for their sacrifice in giving you to Me, even though they might not understand or totally agree with you on some things.

## **Strengthening a Family**

My Own flesh family had to go through persecution with Me. They had to hear the accusations of My accusers. They witnessed the progression of My ministry, heard My words of truth, saw the miracles and healings and deliverances at the hand of My Father, all the way up to My persecution, betrayal, and execution. They suffered when I suffered because of their love for Me, but it was necessary so that they could be firmly convinced in their own mind that I was the Son of God. They were given the privilege of witnessing My persecution for their own sake, for their faith's sake, because no one else would have been crucified for the sins of the world, except He Who was destined to as the Son of God.

Persecution was a testimony to My flesh family that I was Who I said I was. It hurt them, it caused many troubles in their life, but in the end it strengthened their faith more than ever.

(20)

## **I Grew to Love the Fight**

As I went around everywhere trying to do good, as I was faced with the need, My faith was tested. I continually had to look to My Heavenly Father for answers, for solutions, for leading and guidance, and this is what kept Me strong.

In the midst of battle was when My faith flourished and I grew in stature and in wisdom. I grew to love the battle, because I knew I was fighting for you-for your heart, for your soul, and for your life, and no price was too high to pay. I knew it was a battle worth fighting. I knew it was a battle for all eternity, a battle for keeps, and I knew the rewards were worth it all.

It was a battle for love, a battle for the right, a battle of the worlds. I was in the war of the worlds and I knew I was on the winning side. It was a battle between good and evil, a battle to defeat Satan and his horde of demons, and this drove Me to victory. I liked to fight the Enemy when I walked on the Earth, because I knew I was fighting for the right, the side that cannot lose. Each time I looked to My Father, with each victory won, I grew to love the fight. I liked defeating the Enemy.

When Satan would try his tricks of twisting My Father's Own words on Me, I loved to wield My spiritual weapons right back at him. I delighted in watching him turn tail and slither away in shame and disgrace, for he had to flee. It was a thrill to My heart every time the angels came and ministered unto Me, and this encouraged My faith.

As I kept My eyes on Heaven, I knew all of Heaven was on My side, and I could not fail as long as I did not give up. As long as I kept fighting, I knew I couldn't lose. It didn't matter what I was feeling, for I learned that feelings were not a proper gauge. My faith was fixed on Heaven, and this is what brought Me through.

As I looked on the multitudes, I knew it was worth it all-every test, every temptation, every battle, every trial. Just thinking about others, just thinking about you, made it worth it all, and I knew that My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the payoff-the glory that would be revealed in Me.

The thought of suffering in vain, of having to come to Earth and take on human flesh and give up all the glories of Heaven's reward if I did not run the race and win, was more than I could bear, and this realization helped Me to press on. Would I suffer so much in vain? Having come all that way, to give up would have been defeat-to quit just before final victory.

The mere thought of this gave Me courage to cry out to My Father, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done!" (Luke 22:42). At that point, in My flesh, I felt like giving up, but I knew I could not trust in My feelings. I knew in My heart what I had to do, and by calling on My Father for help, I received the strength to carry on, and His Spirit in Me carried Me through.

Yes, this was the secret to My victory, as it will be the secret to your victory-call on Me and ask Me to help you keep the vision. Keep your eyes on Heaven. Keep the heavenly vision. Live in the vision of Heaven and be strengthened. For as I knew My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the rewards ahead, so you, My children, can know the same (Romans 8:18). All that I have promised unto you I will perform, just as My Father has done for Me. As I am glorified in My Father, so you will be glorified in Me.

Therefore, be encouraged as I was encouraged when I walked on Earth. Walk on, knowing that there is a plan and that you have a purpose, a reason to live and a reason to fight. Let this thrill your hearts and cause you to hold on to Me, to stand up and be counted in spite of setbacks, to not let seeming failures get you down, but rather let them spur you to action as you glory in the battle, wielding the most powerful weapons this world has ever known as you defend the faith and answer Heaven's call! <sup>(21)</sup>

## **I Couldn't Let You Down**

Another secret of My victory, what helped Me to keep the vision and press ahead to win victories and continue on in the fight, was when I looked around at the people that surrounded Me. Getting out among the crowds, being faced with the needy situations and having to fight the battles, was what spurred Me on to keep fighting and not give up.

I didn't give up!--Because of others, because of you, because I knew I could not let you down. And even though at times it looked like I was failing, I had to press on. I had to simply trust My Father above, knowing that He could not and would not fail. Knowing that your salvation was at stake was what kept Me trusting and kept Me desperate and militant in spirit, determined to not let go.

Had it just been for My Own sake, My Own victory, it would have been much more tempting to give up the fight. But every time I lifted My eyes and looked upon the multitudes, the needy souls, the hungry hearts, the sorrowful ones, the desperate and the destitute, those dying without answers--this was what compelled Me to fight on.

Knowing I had to fight for others' sakes was what compelled Me to put aside Satan's temptations to lean to personal, selfish desires and carnal lusts. As I lifted My eyes and looked upon others, their need was etched in My mind and burned in My heart and soul, and I felt that driving desire to fight and win and defeat Satan once and for all. I knew I was fighting for



the lives and hearts and souls of men and women who were worth it all.

My children, if you would be strengthened to fight the battles at hand, I say lift up your eyes, look on the fields that are white and ready to harvest, and be encouraged, knowing that you hold in your hand the keys to freedom that can soothe their troubled minds, bring them peace and comfort and good cheer, heal their weary bodies, and set them free.

The need at hand, the lost and lonely around Me, drove Me and compelled Me to march on to victory. This is what made a fighter out of Me, willing to fight and die for you, that you might be free. When Satan tempted Me and offered Me all his worldly kingdoms, it was your need, the needs of the lost and dying world, that kept Me strong, so that I did not accept his offer, nor entangle Myself with the affairs of the world.

I say to you, My children, if you too would follow in My footsteps, if you would be strong, keep your eyes on Heaven. The only way the Devil can win is if you quit, if you give up, if you accept his lying vanities (Jonah 2:8; John 8:44). Therefore, be not entangled with the affairs of the world, as I did not entangle Myself with the affairs of this world, but look to Heaven. Hold on to your faith. Let it grow. Allow it to flourish by getting out and exercising it. Lift up your eyes and look on the fields. Get out and face the need. Give to others what I have given to you. <sup>(22)</sup>

1. Crisis of faith!, Part 1 #3088:84-86, 88, 89
2. Nothing Is Too Hard For Jesus! #3658:114-118
3. Crisis of faith, Part 1 #3088:92-97
4. Nothing Is Too Hard For Jesus! #3658:122-126
5. Crisis of faith, Part 1 #3088:98, 103-106, 115-119, 122-129, 150-155
6. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:47, 49
7. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:34-36
8. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:74
9. Advancing Together! #3666:37
10. Quiet Time--Your Lifesaver! #3183:75-77
11. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:5-7
12. The Summit '96 Letters--Part 6 #3092:26-37
13. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:37, 38
14. Problems and Solutions! Part 5 #3073:26-28
15. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:46, 47
16. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd! #3113:39-42
17. Jesus' Life On Earth, Part 4 #3604:41-43
18. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:12-16
19. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:9-11
20. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:17-21
21. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 2 #3548:34-43
22. Jesus' Life on Earth, Part 3 #3561:53-59