

“Jesus Representin’ You ”

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Mark 1:9-13 NIV

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10] As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. [11] And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

1. Jesus Is God’s Son

Jesus is the son of God. He was born of a virgin by a miracle of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit of God.

As Jesus was baptized, God Himself spoke up from heaven and said, “**YOU ARE MY SON!!!**” God confirmed Jesus’ place of origin. Jesus is the Son of God.

[12] At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, [13] and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

2. Jesus Understands Our Weakness

Some people think that Jesus couldn’t possibly understand them, because He is the Son of God... but although He is the Son of God, He was tempted by Satan, just like us!!! Jesus understands our weaknesses. He understands how hard it is for us stand up and do the right thing.

Hebrews 4:15 NIV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Jesus UNDERSTANDS our weaknesses!!! Isn't that awesome!!! The Son of God isn't some far away person. He's not some icon with a halo floating around His head. Jesus was a human being - like us, and He experienced the hardship of facing temptation. He experienced the challenge of doing the right thing in the face of adversity.

Jesus was tempted, but didn't "give in" to temptation. He didn't sin.

He combated temptation with the Holy Spirit's power and the Word of God.

3. Jesus Represents US

Because Jesus has experienced temptation, yet did not sin... He is the perfect "High Priest" for us.

ASK: What does that mean when we say Jesus is our "High Priest"???

When we think of a Priest in our culture... you may think of a Catholic Priest, or maybe of some of the horrible things that "Priests" have done to kids. But when the book of Hebrews was written it referred to the Jewish people's understanding of a High Priest.

Defining a "High PRIEST":

Let's look to scripture to understand what a Hebrew Priest did.

Hebrews 5:1 NIV

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

The High Priest before Jesus came to earth... was the person who represented the people to God. The Priest offered Sacrifices to God for the sins of the people.

Jesus is OUR HIGH PRIEST!!! HE is “representin” us before God!!! He not only “offered” a sacrifice for us to God, He IS the sacrifice for us to God.

Hebrews 10:12 NIV

But when this priest (Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Jesus offered Himself as the ONLY sacrifice for all time that would pay the price for our sins.

4. Come to GOD Confidently

Hebrews 4:15-16 NIV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We should resist temptation, like Jesus... w/ the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. But when we do mess up... when we do sin, we don't need to beat ourselves up and be ashamed for a long time. **We can come to the throne of grace with confidence!!! We know that when we call on God for forgiveness, we will be forgiven!!!**

Altar Call: Request standing...

Forgiveness only comes to those who ask for it. If you have anything in your life that needs forgiveness, you don't need to go “confess to a priest”. You only need to confess to Jesus... who represents you and me. When you come to God and admit your sin and ask for forgiveness... you are immediately forgiven. God doesn't hold grudges against repentant people. Only people who don't repent of their sins,

and turn from them, are in danger of God's judgment. We can know that the moment we repent to God, we are forgiven by God.

Song: "Cry Out to Jesus" -Third Day

Prayer:

God, I admit I am a sinner. I admit I've done wrong before you. I admit I need forgiveness. Jesus, I ask you to represent me before Your Father. Be my sacrifice. Thank You for your mercy and grace. Amen!!!