



## CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Matthew 4:1-11

*Title: Victorious Foundation*

*Theme: Walking on the Winning Side*

*Series: Easter Season Messages*

**Introduction:** *This is the day that I like to refer to as “Resurrection Sunday Celebration.”* It was on the first day of the week, very early in the morning that women took spices to the tomb where Jesus’ Body was laid. It was on that same day two of the followers of Jesus were on their way back to Emmaus, a town about seven miles from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:13-24) Luke 24:27 says, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.” After reaching the village Jesus took bread with them and gave thanks. As the two were taking the bread their eyes were open and they recognized Him, then He disappeared from their sight. I love their response, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)

Naturally, these two disciples were very excited, they made their way back to Jerusalem, found the eleven and those with them. During this meeting some powerful truths were presented. These truths are, Jesus proving He was physically alive, the giving of the Great Commission and Jesus giving the promise of the Holy Spirit for empowerment of the New Testament Church.

The truth the Holy Spirit wants you to grasp today from this meeting that was held on Resurrection Sunday lays the foundation for Christians to enjoy the abundant life in Christ and live a victorious life over the flesh, the world and the lies of the devil. During that meeting the Bible says, “[Jesus] opened their mind so they could understand the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:45)

**Proposition:** *I would propose to you that the foundation to living a victorious life in Christ is to have the risen Savior open your mind so you can understand the Holy Scriptures.* The beloved John tells us Jesus breathed on the disciples in that meeting and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

**Interrogative Sentence:** *Just what does the Holy Spirit, who raised Christ from the dead and now lives in you (Romans 8:10) have to enable you to live a victorious life in this sin-stricken world?*

The Christ who never sinned and got victory over sin and death sets the example for beating temptation. Satan lies to people, and he has the amazing ability to use the sinful nature and the lures of the world to cause people to walk outside of God’s will.

**Today’s Text is Matthew 4:1-11:** The truths found in our key text today lay the foundation for enabling Christians to live victoriously over the flesh, the lures of this world and the lies of the devil.

**Transitional Sentence:** *One key truth to catch today is being led of the Holy Spirit of God.* Our key text says, “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit...” (Luke 4:1) Romans 8:14 says, “...those who are led by the [Holy] Spirit of God are sons of God.” Jesus was able to stay sinless before God our Father and Romans 8:14 is found in the context of winning over the sinful nature. (Romans 8:1-17)

There are two key words in Romans that are worth grasping the meanings of so we can lay down a firm foundation against all that Satan and this sin cursed world can throw against us.

**“Sons”** (*huios*) referring to Christians who have the character of the Lord. It is not only belonging to the family of God but living like or acting like being part of His family. This word describes those who are governed by the Holy Spirit of God. Spiritually this word is describing Christians who belong to God and are in close relationship with the Lord. “Sons” here has the application of meaning mature enough in the Lord to take on adult family privileges and responsibilities. “Sons” in Romans 8:14 is that unique character describing Christians who are submitted to the guiding of the Holy Spirit and enabled to walk in obedience as the Lord leads them into all truth and in their duties to Christ Jesus. This Spirit of adoption gives the children of God a great privilege. Christians are led by the Holy Spirit as scholars are led in learning by a tutor, as travelers are led on a journey by their guide and as soldiers are led in their engagements by their commanding officer.

**“Led”** (*ago*) enables Christians to live victoriously because they are being carried along by the power of the Holy Spirit in life’s trials and empowered to overcome temptations. The Holy Spirit literally enables Christians to keep their faith and grasp His strength in all trials of life. This intimate relationship with the Lord makes assessable all the power needed for beating temptations of all kinds.

(1 John 5:3-5)

Doris Stump / Trusted the Lord to give her strength to love truth:

Every child of God has the opportunity to enjoy the Lord’s pleasure in everyday life situations if they would just desire being led of the Holy Spirit in every situation of life. Holy Spirit illumination of the Greek Word for “led” (*ago*) enables Christians to live victoriously because He guides the children of God. John 16:13 says, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.”

Bible reading is not enough. The Holy Spirit must become our “Counselor.” The individual indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the specific privilege of Christians for receiving revelation and illumination so they can understand and fulfill the will of God for them. Proverbs 16:9 says, “In his heart a man plans a course, but the Lord determines his steps.” The Lord sovereignly determines the outworking of our plans. The whole counsel of God’s Word teaches, “It is plans of the heart which meet the Lord’s approval that will succeed.”

The Greek word for “determines” (*kun*) is best translated as “direct’ his steps.” Christians who enjoy this have the heart of the psalmist who wrote, “Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.” (Psalm 119:133) Christians who know and enjoy the Holy Spirit’s leading pray as Jeremiah, “I know, O Lord, that man’s life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps. Correct me, Lord, but only with justice...” (Jeremiah 10:23-24)

In October of 2003 we partnered in prayer with Times Square Church in New York City: One girl who ministers to orphans in New York prayed this prayer as she prepared to be a part of the ministry outreach, “God give me what I need and not what I want.” The Lord led her not to an orphanage, but to an abused girls’ home. The young lady was very nervous, but prayed for Holy Spirit strength minister to the abused girls. From her testimony, several girls put their faith in Christ to get them through their pain and hurt. (Page 10 in “Jamaica Field Report”)

Finally, Holy Spirit illumination of the Greek Word for “led” (*ago*) enables Christians to live victoriously because Jesus Christ, through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, is able to bring to completion the work He begins in them. Jude 1:24 says, “To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”

Please note a crucial point, Christians who establish a “Victorious Foundation” ask themselves these questions, “Do I let the Holy Spirit of Christ carry me through the trials and temptations of life? Do I let the Holy Spirit lead me in righteous paths of life? Am I allowing the Spirit of Christ to do His work within my heart that I might increasingly be made Christ-like?”

**Transitional Sentence:** *Grasping the truth of a Spirit led life as Christ did when He walked this sin trodden earth enables Christians to battle all temptation with the sword of the Spirit which is the written Word of God.* In His battle against temptation with our most dangerous enemy, the devil, Jesus said “It is written” (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

“*It is written*” (*gegraptai*) is one word in the Greek and can be translated, “It has been written and still stands written” (Word Meanings in the New Testament) giving us this application, “Thus was written then is still binding now.” This word denotes an indisputable and legal authority when any passage of Scripture is quoted.

It should be noted that these temptations coming from Satan were experienced after Jesus was obedient in fulfilling the righteousness His Father had set before Him. (Matthew 3:15) The Holy Spirit had ascended up Christ in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

It must be understood that great favors from God and special tokens of the anointing of the Holy Spirit will not secure Christians from being attacked by the devil. When new Christians make that public profession of faith in Christ they are often attacked by Satan in some way. When Holy Spirit anointing for service and special revelations from God's Word come to the children of God they had best live humbly, thus putting the sword of the Spirit within the spiritual hearts.

A "Victorious Foundation" is established by knowing Christ as Savior and Lord, by being led of the Holy Spirit and feeding upon the written Word of God. When Christ was starving, Satan tempted Jesus to prove His deity by using His power for personal purposes. Our Lord simply chose God's best. The Lord knows when the flesh becomes hungry it craves for satisfaction, mankind is tempted to take his own course. Jesus sets in motion what is needed so mankind will hunger first for the righteousness of God so he may enjoy God's provision. Jesus says, "...Man... [lives] on every Word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

Christians who stand victorious say with the prophet Jeremiah, "When your words came to me, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight..." (Jeremiah 15:16) In His teachings on not to worry about your life, what you should eat or drink, your body and clothes Jesus said, "...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." (Matthew 6:25-34)

The second temptation from Satan was at the temple where he tempted Jesus to prove His deity by the spectacular. Satan wanted Jesus to throw Himself off the highest point of the temple so he could prove that He was the son of God. (Matthew 4:5-6) It would have been sin for the Lord to test His Father and even worse, Satan used the Word of God to justify what he wanted the Lord to do.

The third temptation was for the Lord to prove His deity through compromising and giving worship to someone other than God the Father. God had set the only way for Jesus to secure the kingdoms of the world and His Word says worship is to be given to Him only. Jesus defeats this temptation by obeying Deuteronomy 6:13, "Fear the Lord your God, serve Him only."

**In Closing:** *Today Christians celebrate "Resurrection Sunday" and enjoy His victory over sin and death by, asking the Lord to enable them to be joyfully led by the Holy Spirit. Their "Victorious Foundation" is laid by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is kept strong by feeding upon the written Word of God, thus making them hungry for the righteousness of Christ. They win their battles against Satan who attacks the flesh and uses the world's lures and clever lies by knowing the Word of God so well they say with confidence, "Away from me Satan, it is written."*

Christians who have a "Victorious Foundation" to stand on are redeemed by the blood of the lamb of God, live by the leading of the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and have had Jesus open their minds so they can understand the Holy Scriptures.