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Devotion for April 11th, 2022

"Since therefore the children share in the flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it was not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."

- Hebrews 2:14-18

Our Lord Jesus Christ lived among us as the Son of God and the Son of Man. He lived under the Law of God just like everyone was in His day. Jesus lived His whole life without sinning. While He lived He healed the sick, cast out demons, and preached to the poor.

He was tempted just like you and me. The devil tempted Him in the wilderness after Jesus had fasted for 40 days. Jesus was also tempted to save Himself from death while on the cross, which as the Son of God He could have easily done. He was tempted to sin against His Father's will. He carried out His Father's will by defeating sin. He carried the sins of the whole world to the cross and died. He also defeated death by being raised from the dead on Easter morning. Jesus did not sin and as such did not deserve to die. Only someone who has sinned deserves to die. This is the power of the devil, that he tempts us to sin, causing us to deserve death.

Jesus changed this. The devil and his followers put Jesus to death, a death He did not deserve, thus being themselves incriminated giving them a death sentence.

Jesus promised that if you and I believe and trust in Him we are no longer under the Law. Our sins are forgiven, our guilt taken away by His act of love for us on the cross. The Law has not gone away, it acts as a guide for us as believers so we can do God's will in our lives. However, it is not our salvation; we live by faith in the promise of Jesus.

There are two Bible passages that came to my mind as I was reading the passage for our devotion for today. The first is from Philippians 2:5-8:

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." ([Philippians 2:5-8](#))

And the second is from Ephesians 2:8-9:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

Jesus lives and He knows what temptations you and I go through day in and day out. He is our high priest and speaks on our behalf with our Father in heaven.

**Please note, there will be no further devotions during Holy Week.
We hope to see you at our worship services:**

Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday: 4/14 at 7 pm

Good Friday: 4/15 at 12 & 7 pm

Saturday Vigil: 4/16 at 6 pm

Easter Sunday: 4/17 at 7, 9, & 11 am

*In Christ,
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor
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