

Remnant Life Church
March 4, 2018
The Temptation of the Easy Way
Luke 4:1-13

- Billy Graham died last week – 99 – and estimated 3.2 million have responded to the salvation message; preached to, by way of crusades, TV, and radio, an estimated 2.2 billion people world-wide
- We have talked about this before - who were the great men of the Bible and how would you describe them?
- A tough one - how would you describe the man Jesus physically?
 - No cameras or paintings then
 - The Bible says little other than he was not particularly pleasing to look at
 - Most people's idea of Jesus appearance is wrong
 - The artists who painted the most widely recognized pictures did so with Jesus depicted as European
 - **PICTURES**
 - Traditional - *Sallman Head*, 1940; American artist Warner Sallman (1892-1968); reproduced over half a billion times worldwide by the end of the 20th cent.
 - Modern – updated from the traditional to give the face a kinder and gentler appearance
 - Jesus Film – 1979 film financed by Campus Crusade for Christ; Brian Deacon; English actor; who was 30 at the time the movie was made
 - There's only problem with these pictures and all those like them - Jesus was not white – He was middle-eastern
 - Accurate – based on studies done on 1st century human physiology in that region of the world
 - 5'5" to 5'7"
 - Short brown hair and beard (style and hygiene – sheep and shepherding other animals; fleas and lice concerns)
 - Walked everywhere without a great deal of food – lean and muscular)
 - Rough and calloused hands from his work with Joseph
 - Olive-brown skin
 - Messes with our comfort zone of who Jesus was
 - The tendency is to over-spiritualize things to such an extent that we forget that Jesus was very God but also very man
 - God incarnate in the form of a man
 - He ate, drank, slept, sneezed, got dirty, sweated, had to bathe
 - Everything you and I do, He did
 - Jesus was also, like you and me, tempted

READ – Luke 4:1-13

1. Change the stones to bread
 - a. This might, at first, sound like a good idea
 - b. Not only was Jesus hungry but He could then feed the world
 - c. To feed them would be to capture them to follow Him
 - i. Feeding of the 5000
 - ii. *John 6:14-15 - After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*
 - d. Jesus was being tempted to give the people what they wanted instead of what they needed
 - i. Food does not last; you get hungry again
 - ii. The plans of satan are never for your good or lasting
 - e. Jesus knew that it was not physical but spiritual food that people needed
 - f. Not food that would satisfy for a short time then need to be replenished but food that lasted for eternity

2. If Jesus would worship satan he would give Jesus all authority over the earthly kingdoms
 - a. This one is funny
 - i. First, satan is trying to give something that is not his in the first place
 1. God never relinquished anything to satan
 2. God is still God over all His creation
 - ii. Second, he is offering a position to Jesus that He already has, ruler over all
 - b. Satan is offering Jesus control over all the ruling factions of the world
 - i. Governmental
 - ii. Military
 - iii. Economy
 - iv. Social
 - c. All Jesus had to do was acknowledge satan as ruler of the world and Jesus would then be able to change the entire world's way of living
 - d. But another plan was already in place – a godly plan
 - i. Jesus knew He did not need satan's plans
 - ii. He knew that He would be crucified, would die, and would be buried
 - iii. He also knew that His Father would raise Him from the dead to conquer satan, and hell, and satan's greatest threat to His creation – death

3. Jump off the peak of the temple so that God will save you
 - a. This one is different than the other 2
 - i. Jesus did not have to compromise who He was like in the other two
 - ii. All He had to do would be to call on His Father
 - b. But if He had, it would have shown that God could be manipulated to do what we Him to do
 - i. It would, in effect, put us in control of God

