

The Real Jesus

TO THE EDITOR:

The movie "The Last Temptation of Christ" is, as stated by Martin Scorsese, a fictional account of Christ's life. I would like to take this opportunity to share how the Bible does portray Christ's response to temptation.

In Matthew chapter four, verses one through 10, it records the three temptations that were presented to Jesus, by Satan, and the response Jesus gave to these temptations. The response Jesus gave was to rebuke Satan with the word of God. These temptations were also presented to Jesus at one of His weakest moments, immediately following His 40 days and 40 nights of fasting, yet He withstood them.

In Hebrews chapter four, verse 15, it says that Jesus can sympathize with us because He was tempted in all things as we are yet He did not sin. Following the third rebuke Matthew 4:11 says that Satan left Jesus. Jesus' example in rebuking Satan, in Matthew 4:1-10, is the same example He wants all Christians to follow.

In James 4:7 we find that God's word says "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." And in Psalm 119:9-11, 165 we find that knowing God's word will help fight off temptation. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word . . . Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee . . . Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble."

Had Jesus sinned He never could have sacrificed His life and offered His blood to redeem us from our sins. This is also the reason why a person cannot offer up his good works, his sufferings, his religious acts, or his punishment for sin, for the payment of his sins.

Why? Because man's attempts at gaining a right relationship with God are either sacrifices made by a sinful person or it is a sacrifice made without the shedding of blood. Hebrews 9:22 says that ". . .without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Romans 5:9 says "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." Paul writes in Philipians 3:8 "But whatever things

were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

In Hebrews chapter 10 it talks about the new covenant established by Jesus in which Jesus' blood sacrifice is the only one required and it was paid at the cross of Calvary. Hebrews 10:9, 10, 14 "then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Thy will.' He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."

If you want to meet the real Jesus, and not Martin Scorsese version, ask God to forgive your sins, turn your life over to Jesus, trusting Him through faith to bring you, by God's grace, to heaven. Turn from your sinful ways and live in obedience to God's word.

I John 5:12, 13 reads "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life." Accept the redemption the sinless Jesus has provided for you through His blood shed at Calvary.

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Tuesday Evening, August 30, 1988