

John 6:15

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

We all know that Jesus spoke God's word in truth and that He also lived God's word. But did you ever think that Jesus actually lived this part of what He said: ***"Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."*** John 10:5

We never think of Jesus fleeing (***but will flee from him***), but it's actually in today's devotional verse which says, ***"Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone."***

When you read the second half of today's verse, ***"He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone."*** you realize that Jesus is actually fleeing from sin in a sense, because of the temptation to take a shortcut of being the King of Israel (***they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king***) and not going to the cross.

As we read today's verses it says that, ***"they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king"*** which to us sounds like a good thing, but if Jesus would had let them, we would all be dead in our sins, and Jesus would not had died on the cross for the world. And if you think about it, it was a temptation for Jesus, because all He had to do was take a short cut, and He would had been the King of Israel and He would not had had to go to the cross. Easy peasy, at least that's what we think. But satan even tempted Jesus with the same thing when he said to Jesus

† ***Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "***

"Come on Jesus, take this shortcut and be their King, isn't that why You came to the earth anyway? No pain on the cross and they will all love You, all you have to do is bow down to me, and I will give it all to You. Easy Peasy" That's pretty much what satan was telling Jesus. But Jesus knew Who He served and Who God is and Jesus responded with God's word of ***"For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "***

But here in today's verse is that same temptation, which was to take a shortcut and be the king, because Jesus was tempted by satan many times throughout His time here on the earth, because if you read the same account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness in the book of Luke, it says, ***"That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another***

opportunity.” Luke 4:13 (MSG) And here in today’s verse was one of those opportunity’s that satan saw to try and cause Jesus to sin.

Paul also writes about this very thing to Timothy when he wrote to him telling him to:

† **2 Timothy 2:22** *Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

Paul never said to stand there and battle satan when you are tempted, but to flee, run, get out of there now! Paul tells this to the Corinthian church as well when he wrote to them that: **“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13** (underlined for emphasis)

So, what’s **“the way of escape.”** Sometimes it’s to flee, run, don’t stand there and try to fight a battle that Jesus already won on the cross. And when you flee or run, you run right to Jesus, Who understands, because He too was tempted, and He will show you the way of escape from the temptation, and many times, it’s simply to flee.

Also remember that fleeing does not make you a coward, but actually makes you stronger because you are using wisdom to overcome a situation that you are to weak in your own strength to defeat yourself. Because we remember that Jesus said that **“For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5b (NLT2)** which includes overcoming temptation; therefore, we should be running from the temptation and right to Jesus, our strength.

† **Galatians 6:1 (NLT2)** *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.*

† **Genesis 39:11-12** *But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.*

† **Proverbs 3:7 (MSG)** *Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil!*