

# JUMP JESUS JUMP

6/4/2024 (original February 2016 edited)

Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem - Matthew 4:1-7. He implored Jesus to jump off the peak and trust that God would send angels to save him, based on a promise from the scriptures. In the first temptation Jesus had said that he must live by the Word of God. Satan was testing that claim. However, there is a difference between faith and presumption. As we mentioned in our last message, timing is where we often miss God's best for us. We may get ahead of God or lag behind. Jesus was led by the Spirit at all times. Satan knows God's Word but misuses it. **In the desert Satan tempts Jesus with shortcuts to glory.** It would continue throughout Jesus' public ministry.

The Temple area covered 26 acres. The temple was 60 feet high at the peak as it overlooked the Kidron Valley. It was covered with silver and gold and from the distant countryside it looked like a snowcapped mountain. It was one of the most splendid buildings in its time. Jesus' disciples were certainly impressed with them - Mark 13:1. If Jesus had jumped, he may have impressed and even won the hearts of the Jewish religious leaders around the temple. Word would have spread around Jerusalem and elsewhere very quickly that a miracle worker had arrived. However, this was not Jesus' main goal, to do miracles just to show off to others and win a crowd. Besides, he had planned to build his disciple making ministry around a group of men from Galilee, filled with uneducated ordinary people. They were described by the elite of Jerusalem as 'the scum of the earth'.

Jesus did do miracles, but mostly among the needy. His desire was to show Father's compassion to the hurting. He generally stayed away from Jerusalem during his public ministry, knowing that the religious leaders were out to kill him. He needed time to make disciples so that his victory at the cross and empty tomb could be passed to multiple generations, which also includes us!

If Jesus had jumped from the temple top, he would have disobeyed God the Father by being led by a word from someone else who had different motives. Satan came with logos, a general word from the scripture. It was not rhema, a specific word for a specific situation. God gave Moses a rhema word to cross the Red Sea with his people. They did so successfully. The Egyptians tried to cross the same waters, but they had no word from God. They all drowned due to their presumption, but Moses had gone in faith.

We can get in trouble when we try to copy others at times and not listen to what God has for us. I remember when a teacher gave a message about how God had led him to give away cars to others. One time he even gave away his house! We may admire his faith, but we should not try it unless God gives us specific instructions.

If Jesus had jumped from the temple without God's direction, it may have been a crash landing. If it was a successful jump, Jesus could become the top religious leader in the Jerusalem area. However, his goal was not to become a great religious leader surrounded by all the adulation and outward splendor of the temple. He came to become the Savior of the world and show us how to live a Christ like life and prepare us for eternity.

The temple was only temporary anyway. After 70 A.D. it was destroyed completely. Jesus had in mind another temple; that would be you and me. We are the temple he really cares about - 1 Cor.3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor.6:16. We can rejoice that Jesus did not jump, for he did something even more dramatic. He laid down his life for us. Let us lay down our lives for him and resist the lies of our enemy. God has a special plan for each of us. We must be led by the Spirit, not by the whims of Satan or other persons. Beware of 'spiritual showoffs' or charlatans, who 'use God' for their own agenda rather than letting God use them for His.

**It is more important to influence people than to impress them. - Adrian Rogers**  
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