

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 6:12

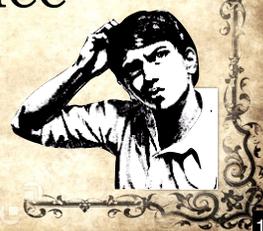
Lesson #61

Jesus and Apostles as example

10/28/2018

## Asceticism Spiritual warfare

Deliverance  
Healing  
Entitlement  
Expectations



How is asceticism related to spiritual warfare and divine healing?



### John 6 (after feeding the 5000)

“<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled.** <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.” <sup>28</sup> They said therefore to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He has sent.**””

- Miracles are **signs leading to spiritual bread** not material bread.

### 1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be mastered by anything.**”

- Biblical asceticism is not a war on “the good things of this life”  
**but a discipline to keep them from displacing the best things in life.**

**1. True healing is to be set free from bondage to “finding our hope in physical healing”.**

“Three vows made in the 12th century by St. Francis - **chastity, poverty, and obedience**”

Francis of Assisi



**Reminders** that material bread becomes stale

## 2. Jesus is our **example** in this life.

*Philippians 2*

“5 **Have this attitude in yourselves** which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, 7 but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of **death**, even death on a cross.”

## 3. Like Christ, our **rights** are to be set aside in this life.

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## How Jesus viewed “his rights”

*Matthew 4*

“1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, **command that these stones become bread.**” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God **throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You’**; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’”

7

“7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “**All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.**” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”

- In each temptation, Jesus **refused his rights** out of deference to his calling.

## 4. Our attachment to our true home will dictate our **priorities**.

8

- It can be argued that Jesus became the **sickest individual in all of history because he bore the sickness and sorrow of EVERY person.**

*Isaiah 53*

“3 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (**sickness**); and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

## 5. We will not escape **grief** and sorrows in this life.

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## 6. Jesus’ experiences and ours, in this life, are **unfair**.

*Isaiah 53*

“6 but the LORD has caused **the iniquity of us all To fall on Him**. 7 He was **oppressed** and He was **afflicted**, . . . 8 By **oppression and judgment** He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that he was **cut off out of the land of the living** for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?”

10

## Peter taught believers to find joy in sharing the suffering of Christ.

*1 Peter 4*

“12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing**, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share **the sufferings of Christ**, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

11

## 7. This life demands **sacrificial endurance** lest we lose heart.

*Hebrews 12*

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **lay aside every encumbrance**, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has **endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.**”

12

## 8. Jesus and his followers are **aliens** to this world.

*Matthew 8:20*

“And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**””

## 9. Suffering presents an **opportunity** to learn and grow.

*Hebrews 5:8*

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience **from the things which He suffered.**”

13

*1 Corinthians 9*

“<sup>26</sup> Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I buffet **(to give a black eye to)** my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”

- **The context is that of an athlete who makes sacrifices to his body in order to win a race.**

*Romans 12:1*

“<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present **your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

## 10. Our temporal bodies are to be a **living sacrifice**.

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*1 Corinthians 1*  
“<sup>8</sup> You are already **filled**, you have already become **rich**, you have become **kings** without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. <sup>9</sup> For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles **last of all**, as men **condemned to death**; because we have become a **spectacle** to the world, both to angels and to men. <sup>10</sup> We are **fools** for Christ's sake, but you are **prudent** in Christ; we are **weak**, but you are **strong**; you are **distinguished**, but we are **without honor**. <sup>11</sup> To this present hour we are both **hungry** and **thirsty**, and are **poorly clothed**, and are **roughly treated**, and are **homeless**; <sup>12</sup> and we **toil**, working with our own hands; when we are **reviled**, we bless; when we are **persecuted**, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when we are **slandered**, we try to conciliate; we have become as the **scum** of the world, the **dregs** of all things, even until now.” <sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> **I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.**”

15

Was Paul robbing the Corinthian believers of their rights or was he reminding them of their **calling?**



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## Do we “get the point”?

1. Are we **too invested** in the comforts of this life as a basis for our hope and peace?
2. Do we thank God for the pleasures of this life without turning them into “**golden calves**”?
3. Do we seek dramatic spiritual experiences more than **spiritual development**?
4. Are we a **witness** to our true hope in Christ's return by the way we respond to hardships and suffering?
5. Are we **too afraid** of suffering and dying?

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