



Still No Room For Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

An honest answer

- How many here would go to bed knowing there was a rattlesnake on the other side of the bed?
- What about sitting on a couch beside a family of scorpions?
- What about going for a walk with a rabid skunk on a leash?

An honest answer

- Would you ever become passive about them?
 - Passive = accepting or allowing what happens or what others do, without active response or resistance.

An honest answer

- Would you ever become passive about them?
 - Sounds like – You know I've never been bitten by a rattlesnake or strung by a scorpion
 - I'm fast and quick enough to get away from any rabid skunk
 - They are no big deal to me, I can handle it

An honest answer

- That is exactly the attitude Christians in America have toward temptation to sin
 - Oh, it's no big deal
 - I'm not giving that up
 - I'm saved and have the Holy Spirit, I'm sure I can control it

An honest answer

- That is exactly the way Christians in America are toward sin
 - Much like Eve we have been seduced by the pull of the world and the desire to be accepted and be lord of our lives, allowing sinfulness close
 - **John 10:10 NIV** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

An honest answer

- **John 15:18-19 NIV** 18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.
- There was no room for Jesus’ birth
- There is still no room for Jesus on His earth

Matthew 2:13-18 NIV

- 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

Matthew 2:13-18 NIV

- 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Matthew 2:13-18 NIV

- 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

Matthew 2:13-18 NIV

- 18 “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



Still No Room For Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

I've had people tell me, "Satan is a defeated enemy, and he knows it."

- Satan's plan is to attack God's Word and God's people to force God to be unable to fulfill just a single promise
- **Jeremiah 1:12 NIV** 12 The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."
 - Watching in Hebrew = To be awake, standing guard

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- **Jeremiah 33:20-21 NIV** 20 "This is what the Lord says: 'If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time, 21 then my covenant with David my servant—and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me—can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.

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- This is the reason Jewish people have suffered so vastly more than any other people group and why they are still on this earth
- Understand Christian, we are included in this group as God's children
- And Satan is doing everything in his power to remove the influence of the Church thus removing its voice

I've had people tell me, "Satan is a defeated enemy, and he knows it."

- **Matthew 16:17-18 NIV** 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

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- **Matthew 16:17-18 MSG** 17-18 Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are."

I've had people tell me, "Satan is a defeated enemy, and he knows it."

- **Matthew 16:17-18 MSG** You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

I've had people tell me, "Satan is a defeated enemy, and he knows it."

- Sin cannot rip your salvation away, but it can and does rip your away your freedom, power, joy, family, marriage....anything that is precious to you
- The only answer is to have a place for Jesus to be Lord of your life and live out God's Word daily through the power of His Holy Spirit
- How?

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- Why did you not want to sleep with a rattlesnake or sit next to a family of scorpions or walk a rabid skunk?

- **FEAR!**

- You understand and fully grasp the possibility of what each can do to you

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- Christians in America have lost the fear of sin and God's judgement against it
 - We say we are educated, scientific, strong in who we are, determined, capable of making our own moral decisions

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- Christians in America have lost the fear of sin and God's judgement against it
 - We say, "I can handle it.", "It allows me to reach more people with the gospel." "I'm saved, what is problem?"

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- This is the reason God gave us his revealed Word and illustrated it in the Law and Old Testament
 - God marvelously brought the nation of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, yet some still kept their idols
 - That's why they built an idol of gold shaped like a bull calf to worship while Moses was receiving God's Law

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- This is the reason God gave us his revealed Word and illustrated it in the Law and Old Testament
 - In spite of all God had demonstrated and done for them they still migrated toward their sinful nature
 - Why do we think we are so different from them?

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- In times past you needed to go to town or go somewhere to be influenced by sin
- Now all we need to do is turn on the TV or bring it up on one of our many screens and let it fill our minds with images on how they want you to think and live
- We put in our headphones and listen to someone telling us how to think and what is truth

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- Used to you needed to go to town or go somewhere to be influenced by sin
 - We use illegal drugs, alcohol and leisure to dull the pain and boredom of life
 - The Church in America is now approving and encouraging acts that God has called overtly sinful

We must develop a healthy fear of our own sinful possibilities and the draw this culture has on it

- I'm not saying we should strip our houses of TVs or screens or music
- I am saying, "Be careful little eyes what you see and little ears what you hear."

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Are you really serious about gaining victory over temptation?
- Are you willing to face up to what you know in your heart God wants from your life?
- We must learn to live a life of purpose

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- So many just go through life without any direction or not making decisions but letting whatever happens, happen

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- **James 1:13-15 NIV** 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Temptation is not the sin unless you purposely place yourself in position to be tempted
- It is what follows after your decision is made
 - Victory as you follow the Holy Spirit
 - Or sin as you give into the temptation

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- If you're serious about dealing with the temptations that pursue you day after day, you may need to take a few steps back—a few wise steps toward safety and away from the temptation
- Plan ahead of time how you will deal with temptations that frequently come against you

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Charles Stanley - A friend of mine in another city had to take a few steps back in the area of sexual sin. One afternoon, we pulled up in front of a convenience store to get a paper. As I was about to get out of the car, he said, “Don’t go. I’ll send Sarah.” Sarah was his eight-year-old daughter. He gave her some change and off she went, barely able to open the door by herself.

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Charles Stanley - I made a humorous comment about his being too lazy to get the paper himself. His reply, however, explained why he sent his daughter and why he was the godly man I knew him to be

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Charles Stanley - “You see,” he said, “I used to go in all the time. But ... to the left is a magazine rack. It’s full of trashy magazines. Every time I’d go in I would battle the temptation to pick one up and flip through it. I decided the wisest thing to do would be to send Sarah. That way I could avoid the temptation altogether.”

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Let me warn you that it may be a simple principle, but it is not always an easy one to apply
 - People will not understand why you can no longer go with them to the places you used to go
 - Even some of your Christian friends won't understand. They'll think you're being legalistic or "holier than thou."

We must understand the pull of sin on our lives, even as Christians

- Let me warn you that it may be a simple principle, but it is not always an easy one to apply
 - Your lost friends certainly won't understand. Their comments may sting. "He can't go. He's a Christian." You may find yourself sitting at home more often.
 - But let me ask you again; are you really serious about gaining victory over temptation?

We must recognize who our real enemy is

- **Ephesians 6:12 NIV** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
 - Do you see now why temptation leading to sin is so dangerous for Christians?

We must recognize who our real enemy is

- Our struggle not against the people in the image or even the images themselves
- It's not the producers, distributors or stores that sell these items
- It's not the friend or commercial that entices you to just live a little
- It's not the person who insults or makes fun your religion

We must recognize who our real enemy is

- It's not your parents or stepparents
- It's not the abusers in your life
- It's not your Christian brothers and sisters
- The enemy is our sinful, fleshly nature being influenced by spiritual forces of evil
- Thus, our true battle is not fleshly, but spiritual

We must recognize who our real enemy is

- **John 16:33 NIV** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
 - In Jesus there is peace available in this world of trouble and temptation

We must recognize who our real enemy is

- We must know who we really are in Christ Jesus
- We must understand the power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word let loose in our daily lives
- We must govern the influences in our daily lives and not let them govern us
- We must choose who we want to imitate

- **We must never forget Revelation 21:5 NIV** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

- **Luke 8:26-28 NIV** 26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.
- **Luke 8:26-28 NIV** 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!”

- **Luke 8:35 NIV** 35 and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever
- He still can put lives back together for His glory
- The answer is to make room for Jesus in your heart and life



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