GAINING TRACTION

What Cyclists, Salmon and Birds Have in Common

Gaining Traction, Part 4

Jason Denison, Worship Pastor • March 24 & 26, 2017

Matthew 4:1-11(NIV)

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: '**Man** shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

- 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do 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 splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."
- ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"
- ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Jesus <u>aligned</u> with us ...

... by emptying himself of His rightful God card.

In God's village, people live in harmony_alignment.

Jesus aligned with us by emptying himself of his rightful God card. So, we align with each other by **emptying** ourselves of our **god card** (sicut deus) that was never ours in the first place.

- Jesus did what Israel couldn't!
- Jesus' emptying made ours <u>possible</u>.

¹ Therefore if there is any **encouragement** in Christ, if there is any **consolation of love**, if there is any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any **affection and compassion**, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2

It's only at Church that you can $\underline{\mathsf{meet}}$ God and not have to $\underline{\mathsf{be}}$ god.

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