

Chapter 10: Jesus Comes to Transform Us

Through Jesus, God restores, heals, and raises us up.

Chapter Summary

Much of Jesus' childhood remains a mystery because the Gospels talk predominantly about His public ministry, which started when He was thirty years old. During His public ministry, Christ taught, performed miracles, and gathered Twelve Apostles. At one point, He took three of His Apostles up a mountain. There, He was transfigured, and God the Father commanded the Apostles to listen to His beloved Son. Jesus comes because He wants us to be transformed by grace. He comes to heal the wounds of sin and to restore and strengthen our friendship with God. He wants to make the grace of the Holy Spirit and the theological virtues available to us and to raise us up to an ever-greater holiness.

More for Parents

As parents, we need to be watchful that sometimes our children can become scrupulous. A scrupulous person is one who thinks that things are sinful when they are in fact not sinful. For example, our children may think that they sinned because they had a passing thought or realized that they desired something that was not theirs. As parents, we must discern how to form our children's character properly. Most likely, a passing thought or desire is not sinful. They did not act on it, nor did they dwell on it. These passing thoughts and desires are simply the result of concupiscence. However, it is still important to take note of these passing thoughts or desires. Reaffirm that your children have not sinned, but also explain that they did what was right by not dwelling or acting on the thought or desire.

Virtue in the Family

The choices we make form our character. As parents, we do our best to model for our children choices that will help develop virtuous character. How? We choose to live with virtue.

Developing a Virtuous Character

Here are some examples of how you can teach and train your children to have a balanced and virtuous character:

- Tell a scrupulous child that not every passing thought or desire is sinful.
- Do not be afraid to talk to your children about difficult or uncomfortable moral topics. If you don't talk to them about these moral matters, then they will often learn the wrong approach from their peers.
- Tell your children that when confronted with a temptation to sin, they should remove themselves from the situation.
- Cultivate in your children the desire for what is good. When you tell your children they cannot play on the computer anymore, spend that time playing outside with them. Don't just forbid what is wrong; help them desire what is good!
- Remain engaged with your children's social structure. Monitor their friend groups, being watchful for certain friends who may pose a serious danger to their moral well-being.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Apostles**
- **Kingdom of God**
- **state of grace**

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