



Bridge to Faith - Connect @ 434

This study is a follow up to the study in The Jesus Times series



The Hunger Games

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus is hungry and faces off against temptation

THE JESUS TIMES – 2nd DELIVERY

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever – Hebrews 13:8

This is a story that originally was going to be in the Bible Study this past Sunday, due to time constraints and sensitivity to where the Holy Spirit was taking us, it was not used. It is shared now to wrap up the study in a different setting...

Snake oil was a real product. It was a traditional Chinese medicine that was brought to the United States in the 1800s by thousands of Chinese migrants who came to the country in order to find work building the Transcontinental Railroad. They brought with them their families, their culture, and their medicines. One of these was snake oil, extracted from Chinese water snakes, and used to treat arthritis and joint pain.

As word of the healing powers of Chinese snake oil grew, many Americans wondered how they could make their own snake oil here in the United States. Because there were no Chinese water snakes in the American West, many healers began using rattlesnakes to make their own versions of snake oil.

It was Clark Stanley, the self-styled “Rattlesnake King,” who successfully capitalized upon this. Stanley traveled across the United States, dressed as a cowboy, and put on shows. In front of a crowd, he would slice open a live rattlesnake and throw it into boiling water, and when the fats of the reptile rose to the surface, he would skim the top and bottle up the oil. Throngs of people lined up at his shows to buy the stuff.

Stanley claimed that he learned about the healing power of rattlesnake oil from Hopi medicine men. In 1893 he and his rattlesnakes gained attention at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Later he went on to establish production facilities in Beverly, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.

However, there was a problem with Stanley's product: Stanley's Snake Oil didn't contain any snake oil at all. In 1917, federal investigators seized a shipment of Stanley's Snake Oil and found that it contained primarily mineral oil, fatty oil believed to be from beef, chili peppers, turpentine, and camphor. Stanley was charged for fraudulent marketing and fined \$20.

Ever since then, the term "snake oil" has been established in popular culture as a reference to any worthless concoction sold as medicine, and has been extended to describe a wide-ranging degree of fraudulent goods, services, ideas, and activities such as worthless rhetoric in politics.

Satan is a master "snake oil salesman" and what he offers is nothing but lies. That is the reward he gives through temptation, lies, heartache, heartbreak, and failure.

Success comes as we stand strong against temptation

There is no shortcut that works, no easy fix, no magic snake oil to make your life successful – you will have to face the rough stuff, deal with temptation, and learn to trust!

So here are a couple of life application points to help

Buckle Up – Get Ready

When you are weak, you can expect an assault of temptation (so stay connected, stay strong, pray up, Word up)

Expect the Unexpected

When you resist, expect a different approach – because well, they usually come around again. This isn't a one and done deal – you will deal with temptation forever

Remember

Temptation doesn't get easier – you just get better at handling it

Be T.U.F.

