

March 22, 2020

Jesus in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

America lost one of its heroes on February 24, 2020. NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson was one of the African American women who helped put astronauts into space. She was so valued at NASA that astronaut John Glenn “requested that Johnson personally recheck the calculations” for his orbit around the earth. In 2015, President Barack Obama said Johnson “broke the barriers of race and gender, showing generations of young people that everyone can excel in math and science and reach for the stars.”¹

Regarding Jesus’ temptation, the student book author wrote, “He had faith in God’s power and provision.”² We learn in today’s lesson that Jesus had many tools in his toolbelt when it came to battling temptation, faith being one of his tools. Placing our faith in Jesus Christ includes placing our faith in God’s power and provision. Throughout our life of faith, we come to understand, and sometimes are reminded of, God’s loving care for us. God provides what we need, and we trust in God’s power to provide what we need.

Katherine Johnson faced many injustices, including sexism and racism. She faced people who did not believe she had the talent or the intelligence God gave her. She proved them wrong and proved her place in the space race. I wonder if, at times, Johnson was tempted to quit, to give up, in the face of others’ prejudices. She trusted in God’s power and provision in her life and made a difference in this world that will continue to last long after her passing.

1. What obstacles have you faced in the past when living into your God-given talents?
2. In what ways do you experience God’s provision in your daily life?
3. How do you put your faith in God’s power and provision?

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¹From “Katherine Johnson, Mathematician and Real-life Subject of ‘Hidden Figures,’ Dies at 101,” by Emily Shapiro, ABC News (abcnews.go.com/US/katherine-johnson-mathematician-real-life-subject-hidden-figures/story?id=69176001&fbclid=IwAR2wxkjoXpE5KjvTCXD6cZIZzRvnJmrO2r29-4Y_jTn0fwp1M_ul_k_fPTRM).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2020, by Randy Cross (Cokesbury, 2019); page 34.