

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written,
"You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve."

Luke 4:9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,
"He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,'"

Luke 4:11 and
"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Hide his word in our hearts
Walk in the Spirit
Follow His Example

Christ fully identifies w/ us

1. Baptism of Repentance
2. His temptation to sin

Red Oak Luke 4:1-13

Introduction:

Let's first remember where we are in the narrative of Luke. It's clear from verse 1 that Jesus has just come back from the Jordan. Jesus is coming off of one of the most glorious and profound experiences of his humanity. The Holy Spirit has made His presence known ^{bodily} and God the Father has opened the heavens and said to Him in front of the crowds, "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased." This is the highest point so far for Jesus: his commissioning into the ministry. And it is followed by His lowest point. *(up till now)*

Real! We have to remember that Jesus is a man and that this is a real temptation. It's so easy for us to get tunnel vision and focus on how Jesus was God and we forget the "incarnate" part. Jesus was a man, who dealt with the same struggles that every other man has had to deal with. We saw in the last chapter how he identified with us in his, "baptism of repentance" now he is identifying with us in our temptation to sin. And I repeat: this is real. *not just a formality*

Hebrews reminds us of this when we see that:

Jesus became a real man like us in everything

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore *★* he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

And again:

Heb. 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do

even more so!

not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

How can we not be moved by this? We talk about this all the time, but why would God squeeze himself into humanity for even a moment, much less live 33 years and suffer crucifixion?

To God be the Glory!

The Perfect Son
Adam, Israel, Christian

Next we need to be prepared to see that Jesus is going to prove that He is the perfect son of God. This episode should remind us of a couple other situations from the Old Testament. First, do you remember another face to face showdown with the Devil? Of course, Adam, and the verse right before this story (Luke 3:38) just talked about Adam as the Son of God. I think that Luke wanted to consciously remind us of everyone that lived between Adam and Jesus to show the long line of failing humanity in comparison to the faithfulness of God. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's prophecies for the Messiah through all of these men mentioned:

① Adam

David, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Noah, and Adam (everybody that God made covenants with).

↳ All of them failed

Adam was tempted in the garden by Satan surrounded by everything he could ever imagine and failed. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness at his physically weakest point and triumphed!

Jesus > Adam

② Israel

We also need to consciously see him as the perfect Israel. Israel is also referred to in the OT as the Son of God. Specifically when you look at Matthew 2:15 which is quoting His 11:1. Scripture

Hos

refers to Jesus and Israel by saying, "Out of Egypt, I have called my son". First to Israel, then to Jesus.

Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and continually failed, and more they tried to test God. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness where Satan tried to test God and Jesus triumphed!

Jesus is the perfect Son.

3

But it doesn't just go backwards to the OT, we need to see Jesus as our perfect example that we are to emulate in our battle against sin and temptation. And this is a reasonable example to follow. Remember Jesus became a human being. He didn't become some kind of super-human that just appeared human (that's the early heresy docetism - Jesus only seemed human). He was fully human. And He fought sin in the same way, with the same weapons that we need to fight sin: the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

* Holy Spirit - God's Word

Luke 11:13

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Psa. 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

Do you want to fight sin and temptation? You have everything you need 2 Pt 1:3

Jesus in the Desert

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not get suckered by the Devil to go out in the wilderness (probably near the dead sea in a region called Jeshimon). He was empowered by the Spirit and followed His leading to do battle with the Devil.

Jesus confronted the devil on purpose

He fasted for 40 days:

- 40 is a significant number in the Bible
- Moses fasted 40 days on Mt. Sinai when we received the 10 commandments
- Elijah fasted 40 days running for Ahab and Jezebel
- Ezekiel laid on his side for 40 days to represent the 40 years that Israel wandered in the desert
- It rained 40 days and night for the flood

So we have Jesus confronting the Devil at his weakest moment, physically. From the way that it's phrased it looks like the devil tempted him for 40 days. What we have here is the culmination of it. Could you imagine? I'm pretty sure that the devil has never actually tempted me in person. I have enough stuff in my own flesh to keep me occupied in my battle against temptation. And here Jesus was tempted for 40 days by the devil himself.

X **Pastoral Word:** We can't get comfortable with a victory because it is often on the heels of the high points that we are tempted the worst.

Vigilance. We can't take a break in the Battle

Provision, Power, Protection

Provision
The First Temptation

³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

This is an obvious assault on His role as Son of God. Right? I mean, I guess so, because of how the devil phrases the question. But how? What is going on here?

Jesus has been led by the Spirit to fast for 40 days through this period and I think we can assume that the devil has been attacking him on every front and here we are at the culmination of them. He is: "hangry" Remember his body has been subjected to humanity, just like ours. It's just as big of a deal to him to not eat for 40 days as it would be for you. And here is Satan trying to get him to take the easy way out and not comply in obedience to the Father. Can Jesus make stones into bread if he wanted? Sure he could. Would it be sinful to do so? It would, if it wasn't the will of the Father.

Shortcut

Satan is trying to get Jesus to take the shortcut to having his hunger satisfied.

This sounds so familiar doesn't it? "If you are the son of God...." Doesn't that sound just like Genesis 3:1? Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?"

But Jesus stood strong and answered using the Bible. And not only that, but he quotes from Deuteronomy (this was the book written to the Israelites who were wandering in the desert).

In context

Deut 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Pastoral Comment:

How was Jesus saying that we should live? By every word from the mouth of God. What?! This is so encouraging. Look at the hope we have. We need to be living by every word from the mouth of God too. Are we?

What was the last thing we saw in Luke from the mouth of God? God spoke out loud to Jesus and said, "You are my beloved Son, in You I am well pleased". This is enough to keep Jesus on track. What about for us?

↳ This is to us in Christ!!!!
That will put fuel in your tank = Well Done

Think of some of the amazing things that God says about you.

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

⇓ Live as people of God

1Pet. 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2Cor. 5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The

We too can trust God for our provision and not try to shortcut it!

old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When you are tempted to sin, remember that you have the righteousness of God.

The Second Temptation

⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

Okay, now this temptation is simultaneously more clear and more confusing. It's clear in that we can understand that the devil is trying to get Jesus to bow down and worship him. What's confusing is that Jesus doesn't just say, "no way, bro, that's not yours to give away".

And it was Satan's to offer. He was not lying when he told Jesus, "For it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will." To be sure, Satan had a limited, derived sovereignty, but it was in fact his. Jesus would three times call him "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Paul called him "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) and "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). So the devil's offer was legitimate. - Kent Hughes

Whoa...

makes it way more real

Power

2

Let the words from God's mouth empower you to live like Jesus

Apparently Satan is showing Jesus every kingdom of the world. He can see all the kingdoms and nations and governments of the world in all their glory worshipping him. This a real temptation because this is what has been promised to Jesus.

Psa. 2:7 I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,
"Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
4 Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."

is going to happen

Is. 45:22 "Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
23 By myself I have sworn;
from my mouth has gone out in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

So all of the kingdoms of the world will rightly belong to Christ. But he cannot take a shortcut to glory.

What the devil is doing here is offering Jesus a crossless salvation. No weeping over Jerusalem, no heartache in the garden, no beatings, no betrayal, no cross, no nails....

I think he does this in the garden too... maybe - Just my opinion

But it would take turning away from the father and bowing to the devil. One moment of idolatry with eternal repercussions.

⇒ No Atonement; No wrath satisfied

And he would have made himself out into a liar. The OT promised a suffering then reigning Messiah.

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

1Pet. 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

Is. 53:10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

*This was the way it's always been. The way it had to happen to really pay for our sins.
If there was anyway from Jesus the cup could pass it would have*

Again Jesus responds with words from Deuteronomy, and rightfully so. The passage that he quotes is right after the Shema and is challenging the people that when they get into their land to remember that God is the one who provided for them and not to serve false gods.

Deut. 6:10 “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ *It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.* ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— ¹⁵ for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

Jesus was tempted again to take the shortcut to receiving what had already been promised to him by God. How often do we do the same thing?

the Father can't do this to the Son

The Third Temptation

Luke 4:9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,”

Luke 4:11 and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

Ps 91

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answered him, “*It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’*” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the dirtiest trick in the book. Jesus has used Scripture to reply to every assault of the devil so now the devil tries to trick Jesus into jumping off the temple by using scripture. How is he supposed to handle this?

The devil quotes Psalm 91

Psa. 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

Psa. 91:3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Psa. 91:7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

Psa. 91:9 Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

Psa. 91:11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Psa. 91:14 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

15 When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

*Do you believe this?
Will the teacher really
care for you?*

God promises to take care of his people. I mean this is a common Psalm for everybody,
wouldn't it be even more powerful for the Son of God?

*Yeah but we still need
to make wise choices*

Again, it's the same tactic from the garden. Did God actually say?

He took him up to the pinnacle of the temple overlooking the Kidron Valley. This was apparently
about a 450 foot drop where Josephus said that, "if any looked down, his eyes would grow
dizzy, not being able to reach to so vast a depth".

We're not certain whether this was in a vision or if they kinda teleported there, but the
temptation was to jump off and prove to the devil that God would protect him.

He's trying to get Jesus to test God. If Psalm 91 is true then you'll be protected, right? So just
jump off and prove it.

*Beware of false teachers!! Never try to use
Scripture to justify your sin.*

But could be good advice given the context.

The devil wants him to put his trust in Yahweh, to take a leap of faith. And it's frustrating because sometimes we will say the same things. If God is not leading then we shouldn't jump out in faith.

But → Jesus does entrust himself to the father. *in everything, not just jumping off a cliff...*

in suffering 1 Peter 2: ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

in death **Luke 23:46** Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

And again he uses Deuteronomy to fight back. This passage comes directly after the last one.

Deut. 6:16 "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. ¹⁷ You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. ¹⁸ And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers ¹⁹ by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised.

In the wilderness they tested God's faithfulness. So Jesus too should not try to set up a situation where he is testing God.

He's telling the devil that He won't try to test God

It looks like Jesus' words might go 2 ways here. He might also be saying to the devil, "don't tempt me". This would in effect mean that Jesus is claiming to be God.

** Don't tempt me => I'm God*

*Don't Test God
OBEY God*

Pride, Lust, Greed, Selfishness

Either way, he's saying that we need to follow God's will for our life and not make up what seems convenient for us and telling God to fix it if we fail.


In all of this we need to realize that Jesus faced these temptations (and many more) in his humanity. He did not have any weapons at his disposal that we don't have.

He was confident in his identity as the Son of God

He was filled with the Spirit

He was filled with God's word

ARE WE?

Remember  There is HOPE!
You can overcome sin + temptation by the power of the Spirit and the word

* **1Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Remembering that our testing is for our good, for our growth in Christlikeness.

Tonight, tomorrow, this week we are going to be tempted not to trust God and take our lives into our own hands regardless of the outcome. We must pray for the Spirit's leading then fall ourselves up w/ God's word