

## Luke 4:1-13

### Intro:

--Before we begin looking at the temptation of Christ, it is important to note that Jesus was alone, and therefore must have explained what happened to His disciples during those forty days in the wilderness. Jesus wants all His followers to know what happened so they can take heart. *\*For all those who feel embattled, lonely, and desolate!\**

***\*2 Corinthians 2:11: Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.\****

--Jesus unmasked the devil's devices so we are not caught off guard. The Holy Spirit wants us to see Christ's victory, so we do not lose heart.

--Now, coming to the devil, it is important to see these temptations as strategic attempts to derail the plan of God. He heard the heavenly voice say, ***This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*** Satan twice says: ***Since you are the Son of God...***

--There is more at stake in our moments of temptation than our immediate well-being. Temptation is tied to something larger than we can see! For Christ to fail here in the wilderness would have been to fail in His ultimate goal. *\*There is an intelligent being behind temptation, whose only plan for your life is to steal, kill, and destroy!\**

--Finally, the devil is shrewd in his attacks, but he is not wise in the biblical sense. In fact, if we simply read the Bible, we find that Satan seems very limited in his ability to anticipate the deliverances of God.

--He often works his targets into a lose/lose situation (Daniel and the lion's den + Jesus with questions like taxes + woman in adultery) and fails because God brings about an unexpected third option.

--Watching Jesus should build our hope and instruct us so that we learn to recognize our enemy's fingerprints and not live ignorant of his strategies. *\*Recognizing a football "tell" or "key."\**

### Verses 1-2:

***--Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.***

--Now Luke takes this Last Adam, the pronounced Son of God, and tells us He ***was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.*** We are to watch Him in conflict with the old serpent.

--First, Jesus Christ is filled by the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit. If we are not being led by the Holy Spirit, we don't have a secondary holy option—we are being led by the flesh.

***\*Galatians 5:16+25: I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. . . If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.\****

--Being led by the Spirit is synonymous with living in the Spirit. We cannot seek to be filled with the Spirit at devotional times and church times and ignore His leading at other times. We must aim for a Spirit-filled *life*.

--Does that always look like nice, easy days? Not at all! Look at what it meant for Jesus.

**\*Mark 1:12-13: *Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.***\*

--What do we see here? The Son of Man, filled and led by the Spirit, in terrible conditions, terrible circumstances, and terrible company. Even so, Jesus had nothing to fear. With Adam, every circumstance was for God and against Satan. With Jesus, every circumstance seemed for Satan and against God. \*Our environment does not ultimately define us!\*

--Man in his own nature is ripe for the devil, but man filled with the Holy Spirit and in fellowship with God is mightier than all the world and devil have to offer!

--The Christian need never fear anything.

--Why does the Spirit of God put us in conflict with the devil? Because God will have us choose Him and His will for His own pleasure and glory.

\*Nee (Let Us Pray): *"When God created man He gave him a free will. There thus exist in the universe three different wills; namely, the will of God, the will of Satan the enemy, and the will of man. People may wonder why the Lord does not destroy Satan in a moment's time. The Lord could, but He has not done so. And why? Because He wants man to cooperate with Him in dealing with Satan. Now God has His will, Satan has his, and man has his too. God seeks to have man's will joined with His. He will not destroy Satan all by himself. We do not know entirely why God has chosen this way, but we do know He delights in doing it this way—namely, that He will not act independently; He looks for the cooperation of man. And this is the responsibility of the church on earth."*\*

--Spiritual highs are often followed by spiritual battles! Jesus was forty days led, and forty days tempted. The Holy Spirit does not fear the power of temptation, but there will always be conflict between the two (**Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16-17**). Expect conflict.

--Satan knows Jesus is the Son of God and attacks Him right at the start of His public ministry.

--Finally, by fasting and praying, Jesus sets a clear example for us.

\*Hallesby (Prayer): *"When Jesus was to be tempted in a special way, immediately after He in Baptism had been endued with power for His ministry, He fasted. Note the fact that He fasted a long time, forty long days. So seriously did Jesus take His struggle against temptations. This is a reminder to us of how indifferent we are about the temptations which assail us."*\*

--Personally, I have never met a man or woman who fasted and prayed over their temptations for forty days. And few, very few, who were serious enough to fast and pray over sin and temptation at all! Sadly, I do know quite a few men and women who couldn't even make it out to a single prayer meeting, who continued to live in their sin.

**Verses 3-4:**

**--(3) And the devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”**

--The old serpent, again, tempts this Son of God along the lines of food. Jesus has gone forty days without eating and is at the very edge of human endurance.

--Most commentators have well noted the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life in these three temptations.

**\*Genesis 3:6: So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.\***

**\*1 John 2:15-17: Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.\***

--Jesus is tempted by the lusts of the flesh.

--Satan is saying, *You are about to die! Act independently of God to fulfill your needs!* This is the idolatry of fleshly desires over the will of God.

--So many in our world cannot imagine a God who would call us to deny ourselves, mortify our flesh, take up our crosses, and follow Him. Why? They have nothing higher to live for than their lusts. **\*Phil. 3:19: whose god is their belly. . . who set their minds on earthly things.\***

--It is important to recognize that our warfare most often comes through natural and not supernatural means. We don't think of this enough! **\*There is supernatural warfare, but that is the exception and not the rule\***

**\*James 1:14: But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.\***

**\*1 Peter 2:11: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.\***

--The temptation to self-indulgence is also more powerful when we feel like our desire is a legitimate need. **\*“Need,” or “happiness” becomes the regular excuse when it comes to sex and relationships, cohabitation because of finances, adultery because of difficulty in marriage, homosexuality because of orientation, etc.\***

**--(4) But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”\***

--Three times Jesus will say, **It is written**, each time quoting from Deuteronomy. He responds to temptation with the Word of God.

--Christ's answer—the Word of God as the Bread of Life. The Word of God reveals the will of God for life. Christ surrendered to this Word and will of His Father over His bodily urges.

--Christ's relationship and trust with the Father were not ruled by His immediate bodily desires. Jesus surrendered His legitimate desires and their fulfillment to His Father. In doing so, He proved that God was the only indispensable need of man! \*Jesus didn't live to serve Himself, or find Himself, or please Himself, but to please His Father, serve others, and pour Himself out!\*

--In His Word, we find the type of life that is a deeper need than our very food. \*Which is easier to say than to believe when it is lunch-time!\*

**\*1 Kings 18:42: *So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees...*\***

--What will determine our lives? The Word of God or our bodily desires?

#### Verses 5-8:

**--(5-7) *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."***

--The devil takes Jesus to some prominent point and gives Him a vision of the kingdoms of this world and all their material glory. Satan had been handed dominion of this world from Adam, and was (and still is) able to share it with whoever he wanted.

--Jesus is tempted by the lust of the eyes. A covetous desire for the world's authority, glory, power, and treasure. Satan was offering the kingdom without the cross.

--Worldly covetousness often tempts us to compromise. Instead of worship and service given **only** to God, we give our worship and service **mostly** to God and **partly** to the world—for favor, convenience, or material goods.

--Anyone who dares to publicly call themselves a Christian will readily admit that we must not live for all the world, but, we tend to also think there is something to be said for some world-influence, world-method, world-money, and world-friendship.

**\*2 Chronicles 18:1: *Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.*\***

--The Scriptures repeatedly warn of the deceptive charm of the world:

**\*Mark 10:23: *Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"\****

**\*John 17:16: *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*\***

**\*James 4:4: *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?\****

--Yet still, in every age, there are those who ignore these divine warnings and compromise to keep the favor and fellowship of the world.

--Sadly, this compromise leads to being transformed in mind and conformed in lifestyle to Satan's kingdom. We become worldly—which is not merely wickedness—and soon find our contentment more in the thought, conversation, and lifestyle of the lost rather than as citizens of heaven. \*Conformed Vs. Transformed\*

**--(8) And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"**

--Jesus saw right through the devil's offer. He knew He would rule all the kingdoms of the world in His Father's will (**Ps. 2:8; Dan. 7:14; Jn. 18:36-37**).

--Jesus also understood the true cost of worshiping Satan. Worship and service go together. Jesus couldn't worship Satan without also serving Satan. In like manner, we are tempted to honor the world and think we are not in its service. Do not be deceived.

--The central temptation here is giving in to the lust of the eyes through coveting the power (**authority**) and riches (**glory**), the kingdoms of this world can offer.

--What was Christ's answer? The Word of God directing our unqualified worship and service. If my service and worship are not directed by the Word of God, what is left? Only the covetous worship and service of the world.

**\*Proverbs 23:17: Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day.\***

--Does the Word of God anchor us to the worship and service of God's kingdom? Do we see the majesty of His Person and the hope of His inheritance? Is He revealed as high and lifted up? Does the Word of God cause me to live in the reality of His kingdom?

*\*Muggeridge (Christ and the Media): "In my first lecture I considered the fantasy world the media project and in which they enmesh us, in contradistinction to the reality of Christ's Kingdom proclaimed during his ministry on earth, and open still, as it has been throughout the Christian centuries, to all who truly seek it. As it seems to me, perhaps because I have so often had occasion, professionally, to cross from one to the other, and know from long experience how wide, and widening, is the gap between them, these two worlds are drawing ever more implacably apart. Or is it just that being old and near the end of my days, the contrast between the reality I see ahead and the fantasy I shall soon be leaving behind forever seems to be the more marked—like looking down on a smog-infested city set in a sunlit plain.*

*"In any case, I have a longing past conveying to stay, during such time as remains to me in this world, with the reality of Christ, and to use whatever gifts of persuasion I may have to induce others to see that they must at all costs hold on to that reality; lash themselves to it, as in the old days of sail, sailors would lash themselves to the mast when storms blew up and the seas were rough. For, indeed, without a doubt, storms and rough seas lie ahead."\**

--How can a man lash himself to the reality of the kingdom of God like those sailors of old? By allowing the Word of God to direct all his worship and service.

**\*Psalm 119:36-37: *Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your ways.\****

--The best part is that when we love God, He loves us back. On the other hand, the world only loves its own and will never love the child of God. How sad, then, for those dismal children of God, who seek the world's friendship at the cost of enmity with God?!

--Will our worship and service be determined by the Word of God or the lusts of our eyes?

**Verses 9-12:**

**--(9-11) *Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"***

--Jesus is brought to a high point on the temple. We don't know if people can see them or not. Either way, Satan quotes Scripture, tempting Jesus to prove His Messianic celebrity by ostensible faith.

--Jesus is tempted by the pride of life. He was promised angelic protection. Satan is daring Him: *Prove your trust in God's Word by your actions! Show everyone who you really are!*

--The pride of life desires to exalt itself in the very temple of God. Is there anything more Satanic than this temptation?! \*We must never be surprised to find Satan lurking about the house of God and the people of God. They do happen to be his primary target!\*

--Also notice that Satan is keenly interested in being a part of the delivery of Scripture. His poisonous influence on the Scripture is injected by taking away from the Word, adding to it, or denying it outright.

--Here, Satan gives us a curated quotation of **Psalm 91:11-12**, conveniently leaving out the phrase: ***in all your ways***. Satan does not want the full light of truth to shine on the circumstances. Cultivated truths are lies.

--A false church and false gospel are much better for him than no church and no gospel. How many have been lost eternally by heeding another gospel? How many have been wounded or led astray by egotistic or legalistic cults? How many have been burdened and scarred by the twisted commands of heretics and the traditions of blind Pharisees?

--What if Jesus wasn't familiar with the Word of God? What if He thought Satan was right?

--Then the devil deceives us from the truth and then dares us to live out his false truth to prove their "faith".

**--(12) *And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"***

--Jesus sees through the devil's lies. Tossing Himself off the temple wouldn't be an act of faith, but an act of defiance. We must not "test" God in ways that are displeasing to Him.

--The Greek used here for **tempt** is used in **Luke 10:25** (For the religious lawyer who asks, "Who is my neighbor?") & **1 Cor. 10:9** (Israel in the wilderness bitten by serpents).

--We "test" God by trying to manipulate Him or force His hand.

--Jesus doesn't need to toss Himself off the temple to prove God's Word or achieve celebrity.

\*There are always those deceived into thinking esteem in the world's eyes can be leveraged for God. They are trying to use Sauron's one ring as a power for good!\*

--Christ's answer? The Word of God is sufficient for the worker of God and the work of God.

--Familiarity with the Word of God will keep us from false expectations of God or the work of God. We don't need to prove ourselves as something before men. We are what God says we are. \*There is such great freedom in this! I can just be a normal guy who loves and follows Jesus.\*

--Will my life and identity be determined by the Word of God or the pride of life? Will I trust God or tempt God?

### **Verse 13:**

***--Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.***

--Jesus defeated **every temptation** from the enemy. No weapon formed by Satan prospered against the Son of God.

***\*Hebrews 2:17-18 + 4:15: Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. . . For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.\****

--In each of these temptations, there are aspects of timing, priority, and principle behind the actual acts themselves. Christ was tempted in all points (not necessarily by all sins) as we are. Jesus was tempted to indulge self, serve the world, and manipulate God. He faced these temptations on levels we will never imagine!

--Christ would possess all good things in time: bread, power, and glory, but He was not willing to pay the price of disobedience for any of them. We cannot obtain good things, good results, or even good feelings, illicitly. Everything is beautiful in its time!

--Remember how it all ends. There is victory because of Christ Jesus! ***Resist the devil and he will flee from you!***

--We will never be called to resist as far and long as Jesus Christ did, but even so, if we resisted the devil to the very end of all our physical strength, God would provide supernatural strength if we required it! ***And the angels ministered to Him. . . (Mk. 1:12).***

--You and I are called to ***put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts (Rom. 13:14)***. When we put on Christ, we are putting on the One who never lost a battle with the enemy. \*There is too much glorying in our lack of victory today. . . too much talk about things like *journeys, struggles, and stories* of sin.\*

--Do not fear temptation. Turn your temptation into crowns of life!

***\*James 1:12: Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him.\****

--***Until an opportune time.*** . . Every difficulty we face isn't directly from the devil, but some sure is. Satan has evil days (**Eph. 6:10-13**) where he springs an attack. We are called to stand and withstand, strong in the Lord, in the armor of God.

--The reality of temptation is why Jesus told us to pray for deliverance.

***\*Matthew 6:13: And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.\****