

## Overcoming Temptation & the Triumph of Christ (Luke 4:1-13)

*(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.'" (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,' (11) and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" (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.*

1. Jesus is greater than Adam, Israel, me, and you. When Jesus faced off with the devil He was victorious. Adam was tempted, and sinned. Israel was tempted, and sinned. Me and you were tempted, and sinned. Jesus was tempted in the worse situation possible, and yet remained holy, perfect, pure, sinless. Therefore, since He was tempted in all ways like us, yet without sin, He could rightly be our substitute to die in our place for our sins on the cross. Because of Jesus we can be forgiven. Have you put your trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?
2. Jesus lived a Spirit-filled life to the fullest. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in all that He did. He depended on the Holy Spirit for everything. He understood and trusted in God's Word for everything. He shows us how to live this way ourselves. God desires for us to be filled to the fullest with the Holy Spirit. God desires for us to be led by the Spirit in all we do. God desires for us to trust in His Word and let His Word lead and direct our lives. Is this how you live?
3. Sometimes God will lead us into difficult places and situations for a purpose. God is sovereign over the good times in our lives and the difficult times, both the Jordan and the wilderness, the desert and the mountain top. The devil is not sovereign in this passage, neither is some human being. God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is ruling and reigning here. God is fulfilling His plans and purposes here in ways that bring glory to Jesus. We must realize that everything God does and allows is intended to bring glory to Jesus. When you realize this you will find peace, deep joy, purpose, and meaning, even in your most difficult moments. Worship God in the midst of all you go through, give Him glory, trust Him, His Spirit, and His Word. Don't turn from your heavenly Father in the wilderness, turn to Him.
4. The wilderness is a desert wasteland filled with rocks, cliffs, ravines, danger, darkness, and difficulty. Jesus was tempted by the devil throughout his 30 years up to this point, but He is now entering into a period of intense temptation over 40 days. He had not eaten during the entire period of these 40 days (fasting). He was physically weak, suffering, lonely, burdened, and hurting. Jesus can identify with us in our greatest sufferings. He knows our weakness, pain, loneliness, isolation, burdens, hurts, suffering, and our temptations. In fact, Jesus felt the full weight of temptation that none of us ever has, and still remained sinless. Do you see God's love in this? God is great, transcendent, all powerful, and mighty, but He is also near, close, understanding, sympathetic, kind, and deeply loving. God came to us, God is with us, God loves us. This is Jesus!
5. Jesus' temptation came at a very hard time in a very hard place. The devil himself tempted Jesus, not another person, group, or even demon. The deceiver, liar, accuser, murderer, and evil one himself speaks to Jesus. He questions Jesus' identity, and he will question yours. He appeals to Jesus' God given desires, and he will appeal to yours. He tries to get Jesus to put the creation above the Creator. He tries to get Jesus to depend on food instead of His Father. He will do the same to you. Would you rather be fed or Fathered? Would you rather depend on God or depend on doughnuts? Are you going to let your physical desires control you or your Creator?
6. Jesus fights the devil and his temptations with the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God). Jesus speaks God's Word, the Spirit leads Him to the Word because they always go together. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 to make clear that even more than food people need God and His Word. Our dependence upon God and His Word should supersede even our dependence on physical food. We wake up each morning and one of the first things we do is eat. We would not go the entire day without eating. Do we think more about God, His Spirit, His Son, and His Word than we do food? When we realize the spiritual battle we are in we will prepare spiritually for each day even more than we do physically.
7. The devil, as the liar and deceiver, makes a promise he can't keep. He offers Jesus the kingdoms of world without a cross. He says Jesus can be magnified without being crucified. He offers Jesus authority, rule, glory, fame, and honor from the people of the world. He offers Jesus success without suffering. The devil will offer us the same. Don't believe it, don't believe his lies. Be filled with the Spirit and not with satan. Be led by the Spirit and not by the serpent. Feast on and obey the Word of the Lord and not the word of lucifer. Often times we would rather be magnified rather than crucified. Our sin must be crucified, our will must be crucified, our ways must be crucified. Follow the Lord no matter what. Worship God, not the devil. Serve God, not the devil. Jesus again fights this spiritual battle with spiritual weapons, the Word of God. He quotes from Deuteronomy 6:13. Be filled with God's Word and don't let anything or anyone move you away from it.
8. The devil takes Jesus to the holy city, the holy place, the location where God's presence was to dwell most fully on earth. Again the devil attacks His identity. The devil try's to get Jesus to test God, even in the name of 'faith.' The devil quotes the Bible, teaches the Bible, preaches the Bible, and try's to make application of the Bible, but he twists it, misuses it, abuses it, proof texts it without looking carefully at the context. The devil's text for his sermon is Ps. 91. He calls Jesus to have 'faith,' that is not the kind of faith God wants Him to have. He says angels will catch Jesus and the people in and around the temple will see who he really is, the Son of God, and He will be vindicated (shown to be right). People will be wowed by the great miraculous display of God's protection and provision. If Jesus does this and God does not guard Him it will basically be suicide, and certainly be sin. But Jesus does not take the bait. Jesus sees past the twisting and abuse of God's Word. Jesus knows the devils ways and schemes. We need to know these things as well. This is why we need to know God, study His Word carefully, understand the devils ways, and say no to his temptations by the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of Christ. We should never test God. We should let God lead us and not the devil and his lies spoken through people, books, songs, movies, etc. The mind is the battlefield.

9. If we resist the devil he will flee from us. If we draw near to God He will draw near to us. We need to know how he works and trust our Father, His Word, His Son, His Spirit, His leadership, and His direction.

*(1) "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. (2) And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. (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. (4) Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. (5) Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. (6) So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. (7) For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, (8) a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, (9) a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. (10) And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. (11) "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, (12) lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, (13) and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, (14) then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, (15) who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, (16) who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. (17) Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' (18) You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. (19) And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. (20) Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. (Deut 8:1-20)*

*(13) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. (14) But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:13-15)*

*(15) For we do 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. (Heb 4:15-16)*

*(39) And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. (40) And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." (Luke 22:39-40)*

*(34) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (Jn 4:34)*

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

*(8) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (Psa 2:8)*

*(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. (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. (Deut 6:10-19)*