



## “The Temptation of Jesus”

### Part 2

Luke 4:3,4

Nov. 7, 2021

#### Luke 4:1-4

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around 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 had ended, He became hungry.

#### Could Jesus sin?

• This is called the impeccability or peccability of Christ.

- **Impeccability** – unable to sin.
- **Peccability** – able to sin.

3 reasons Christ could not sin (*impeccability*):

1. He is God.

- Infinite in holiness.
- Infinite in omnipotence.
- Infinite in immutability.
- Infinite in omniscience.

• Jesus had infinite power to resist temptation.

• It was impossible for the divine nature to sin. The human nature could not act apart from the divine nature.

2. He has no sin nature.

- Nothing to respond to temptation.
- Therefore He only senses the temptation externally. We experience it internally.
- He never had a struggle with sin internally.

John 14:30

30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

- Lucifer, the fallen angels, and Adam and Eve, all of whom did not have an OSN, had the ability to internalize temptation, and mixed with their inclinations ended up yielding to it, and therefore sinned.

3. He is an immovable object.

- His temptations go to their maximum every time.
- Jesus feels the temptation and he feels it to its fullest.
- One does not have to experience something in order to understand it.
- Jesus is omniscient and knows all about temptation and sin, and has experienced it first hand in the wilderness.

#### James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

#### How does the example of the temptation of Jesus help me when I am tempted?

1. As with Jesus, the Holy Spirit plays a major role in empowering us when we face temptation.

“The Son of God needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to meet this temptation. If He needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to be able to meet the temptation, I might as well face up to the fact—and you might as well join with me—that you and I cannot face the temptations of this world today in our own strength. You and I are joined in a battle in which we are hopelessly outnumbered, and we will be miserably defeated if we go forth in our own strength and with our own ability.”

- J Vernon McGee

## A MIGHTY FORTRESS

2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,  
from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

### How does the example of the temptation of Jesus help me when I am tempted?

1. As with Jesus, the Holy Spirit plays a major role in empowering us when we face temptation.
2. We can be right where the Lord wants us, doing His will, and yet in the providence of God He will bring us face to face with trials and testings and temptations. Look at Jesus – He was fasting, He was led by the Spirit. This should be of great encouragement to us.

#### 1 Peter 4:12

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

3. Times of joy and victory are often followed by temptation. Because it is at those times that we are most vulnerable. We experience both the mountaintop and the valley.
4. Temptation is not a sin. Yielding to temptation is.

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4. Temptation is not a sin. Yielding to temptation is.
5. God never tempts us to sin. Satan does.

#### James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and **He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

"Temptation is the tempter looking through the key-hole into the room where you are living; sin is your drawing back the bolt and making it possible for him to enter."

- J Wilbur Chapman

6. God allows temptation for the purpose of testing. What are we made of? He wants us to pass the test!

#### James 1:2-4

- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

7. God's testing will not be greater than what we can handle.

#### 1 Cor 10:12-13

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

"Satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us, but God can use these difficult experiences to put the best into us. Temptation is Satan's weapon to defeat us, but it can become God's tool to build us."

- Warren Wiersbe

8. Some temptation can be avoided. Keep yourself from situations you know will be difficult and tempting.
9. Don't tempt God by flirting with the world and then expect Him to bail you out.

"Never invite temptation—it always accepts."

"Most people want to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch."

"Most people who fly from temptation usually leave a forwarding address."

10. Watch your physical state - hungry, tired, drained, sick, depressed, etc. These have a lot to do with how you handle temptation.

### Luke 4:1-4

- 1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around 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 had ended, He became hungry.
- 3 **And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."**
- 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"

"Be prepared. As soon as God opens the windows of Heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of Hell to blast us."

- Adrian Rogers

### 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

"devil" – διαβολος – slanderer, accuser.

- the ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- the wicked one (Matt. 13:19,38)
- the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
- the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- the serpent of old (Rev. 12:9)
- an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
- the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9)
- Abaddon and Apollyon (Rev. 9:11)
- the tempter (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5)

### 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

"if" – εἰ + the indicative (1<sup>st</sup> class) = assumed as fact, assumed to be true – "If, and it is true, You are the Son of God . . ." or "since you are the Son of God . . ." or "in view of the fact that you are the Son of God . . ."

- The Devil knew who Jesus was.

• **Note:** The Devil really has a twisted, humanistic view of life and he wants you to have that view as well.

• **Note:** Jesus set aside the independent use of His own deity and operated only under the Father's will in perfect submission and by the Spirit's power in effecting that will.

### Phil 2:6-7

- 6 although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- 7 but **emptied** Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

### **3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."**

#### **Let's analyze this temptation:**

1. There is nothing wrong with satisfying one's hunger.
  2. Bread is not sinful.
- Luke 11:3**
- 3 'Give us each day our daily bread.
  3. Eating bread is not sinful.
  4. There is nothing wrong with creating bread if you have the power to create it. (Luke 9:10-17 – 5,000)

#### **So what is the temptation here?**

- It was to put Jesus' own immediate physical needs ahead of God's will and eternal purposes.
- Jesus is in an intense time of testing, the Holy Spirit leading Him, and satisfying His hunger is not the priority and to do so independently of the Father's will WOULD BE A SIN!
- Jesus is not going to live for Himself.

- There are more important things than bread.

#### **Ps 63:2,3**

2 Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.  
3 because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips will praise You.

- This life is more than just about eking out an existence.

#### **2 Cor 5:15**

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might **no longer live for themselves**, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

#### **Luke 9:23-25**

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

#### **John 4:34**

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

#### **Matt 6:31-33**

31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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#### **• How would you characterize your life?**

- **So what more is there?**

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"It is written," – perfect tense – "stands written forever" - those 3 words should be a very important part of your vocabulary. It is the only way for you to resist temptation.

Jesus then quotes from the O.T. – Duet. 8:3b -

- All the OT quotes here in Luke 4, that Jesus uses, come from Deuteronomy because Deuteronomy was written while Israel was in the wilderness.
- The scriptures the nation Israel had available in the wilderness to keep them from sinning, are the very passages Jesus used.
- Sometimes the best way to show a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it.
- Jesus wants to show the Devil how crooked (perverted) He is.

#### Deut 8:1-3

1 "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your forefathers.

2 "You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.**

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#### So what do we live on?

##### Matt 4:4

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

- "It is not just the "thoughts" of Scripture that are vital, but every word!" - Henry Morris

**It is God's Word that enables us to resist temptation.**

##### Ps 119:11

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.

#### So what is the context of Duet. 8:3?

- Every morning for six days of the week God would provide manna for the Israelites.
- All the people had to do was go pick up the fresh manna each day.
- Manna was a kind of bread/water that enabled Israel to continue to live.
- Because they lived in the wilderness, and there was no food, they had to depend upon God to provide it.
- So they depended upon God who provided the food. That is what surrounds this text.
- All through the wilderness, God was "testing" Israel to find out if they were going to be faithful to keep God's commandments, to keep His Word.
- God was teaching the people that they needed more than just bread to exist, they needed to learn to follow God's directions in order to survive.
- Jesus is in the same situation as Israel.
- He is in the wilderness with no food and it's been forty days and He's hungry.
- Jesus knew the Scriptures. Jesus knew the story of the manna.
- So Jesus is saying to Satan here, "My ability to survive does not just depend upon bread, but it depends upon God. If He wants Me to have bread, He'll supply the bread. My focus will be on doing His will."

② Bread + Word Level

① Bread Level

### **Closing thoughts –**

Man has ultimately only one need—God. Adam and Eve did not believe that.

To have turned the stone into bread would have been to have turned from the path which led ultimately to the cross.

If we are ignorant of God's truth, we are poorly armed in the fight against temptation.

*“If you want to live your life, obey My Word, and I'll take care of your bread.”*

*- God*