

The Gospel of Luke  
Luke 4:1-13  
February 10-16

*“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 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. “If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.” 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, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.”*

*Luke 4:1-13 ESV*

40 Days – there are many references to 40 in the Bible. While intriguing, be careful not to run too far on this numerical theme during this session.

Temptation in the Wilderness – Matthew and Mark both list this experience, as does Luke, but in much less detail. John does not mention it because John only mentions “eye witness reports” in his gospel.

The wilderness throughout scripture is a metaphor – “where one contacts God”  
Jesus meets the devil in the wilderness

40 Days of temptation v. 1-2

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

This is not a “get away and enjoy the spa” - Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days. Interesting point to mention - The HS led him into the wilderness but not into temptation. Remember the Lord’s Prayer where Jesus taught the disciples to pray mentions “And lead us not into temptation.”

3 Ways Jesus was tempted -

**Temptation of appetite v. 3-4**

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

- appeals to His hunger and His omnipotence (prove You are the Son of God)

- Jesus answers him with scripture - *Deuteronomy 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."
- Appetite is more than food (entertainment, technology, etc) - we all can crave things other than God. What are some things that lure you away?
- How can God Himself can satisfy your appetite?

### **Temptation of Ambition v. 5-8**

*And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 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. "If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."*

Jesus quotes from *Deuteronomy 6:13*

*"It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear."* - *Deuteronomy 6:13 ESV*

Ambition temptations prey upon our wants. Many times, our wants come disguised as needs.

- How can you know the difference?

Ambition can falsely promise more of what we love. What I want is the most important thing and I must have it to succeed.

- What are those things in your life that promise one thing yet never seem to satisfyingly deliver?

The antithesis is a lack of ambition. Reverse polarity - choosing to avoid and actually be a fear of wanting or doing more. False sense of humility.

- Are there times when you are locked down and afraid to try? How can you recognize those for what they really are?

Discuss this little phrase - **There are no shortcuts to faithfulness.** Why is that so important for us as Christ-followers to believe and live out?

### **Temptation of affirmation v. 9-12**

*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, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Here Satan tries to quote scripture back to Jesus. (Satan took it out of context) *Ps 91:11-12*

Jesus answers him with *Deuteronomy 6:16*

*"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah."*

*Deuteronomy 6:16 ESV* Massah - a place of testing – we know very little about Massah or what actually happened there other than it must have been a very rough patch for the Israelites.

"Putting God to the test" - You demand that He rescue you in the way you want to be rescued. Demanding from God to make you sure you are loved.

We crave to be affirmed in the way we want to be affirmed. To make sure we are loved. Jesus knew that His Father loved Him.

If Jesus has succumbed to this temptation then He would not have fulfilled the will of the Father.

v. 13

*And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

- more than likely Satan came around quite a bit and then of course at the betrayal in the garden

Why is it vital for us that Christ did not give into the temptations that Satan threw His way?

Allow time to share and then take time to share prayer requests and pray together.