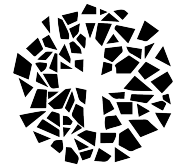


INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 4:1-15

Community Group Study Guide
Week of February 18, 2018



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week we continued our series in Luke by looking at the well know passage of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. As Jesus began his ministry, the Holy Spirit drove him out into the wilderness to fast for 40 days. During those 40 days Jesus was tempted by Satan to compromise his mission and turn away from the plan of salvation that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit had ordained. As we look at each of the temptations mentioned in Luke 4, we see that Satan was tempting Jesus to **Gratify** Himself, **Define** Himself, and **Exalt** Himself apart from God. Satan also wanted Jesus to believe that he could attain all the glory, power, and authority of being the Messianic King, without going to the cross.

One thing we should notice while reading this passage is that Satan does not reveal himself as the cartoon devil, or hideous monster that our culture expects. Scripture tells us that he more often masquerades as an "angle of light." Sin wouldn't be tempting if it appeared overtly evil or repulsive, so Satan works in more crafty and insidious ways. While he delights in great evil, his temptations more often come subtly so that though one small compromise after another, he can not only lead us into sin, but lead us there believing that our sinful behavior is rational or even justified. Here in Luke 4, Satan tempts Jesus with some seemingly harmless or even good things, but he tempts him to acquire them selfishly and apart from God.

The irony of Satan's temptations is that Jesus ultimately found true satisfaction for each of them by being faithful to His Father and to the mission. Jesus found gratification in the presence and the pleasure of God, and remained faithfully obedient to the point of death on a cross. The result that we read in Philipians 2, is that God the Father, "highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Satan's promises of self gratification, self definition, and self exaltation were in fact hollow deceptions that he had no power to fulfill. God the Father, however, was faithful and true to His Son, even through death.

The Book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, but that he never sinned or gave in to that temptation. Satan often tempts us in the same way he tempted Christ. He wants to draw us away from God by promising us great gratification, identity, and significance in other things. In overcoming Satan, sin, and death, Jesus showed us that Satan and his lies have been exposed and defeated. He also proved that we can trust God is always good, and that his promises never fail. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we too are able to say "yes" to God, and "no" to temptation when it comes our way.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand some of Satan's tactics for tempting us to sin.

Heart

To trust that God's promises are better than Satan's temptations.

Hands

To fight sin and the lies of the enemy by knowing, trusting, and obeying the truth of God's word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serve: Contact Julie@mosaicboston.com to start serving. Setup, teardown, greeters, mini Mosaic, etc.

Membership or Baptism: Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER

What is the most remote place you have ever hiked or traveled?

Read Luke 4:1-15

- Pastor Jan showed us that in these three interactions, Satan was tempting Jesus to **Gratify** Himself, **Define** Himself, and **Exalt** Himself apart from God and apart from the cross. Looking at the first temptation in verse 3-4, what can we learn from Jesus' refusal to give in to gratifying his desire for food?
- Gratifying our hunger or other desires is not always a bad thing. How would you explain the difference between gratifying a desire in a good way, and gratifying a desire in a sinful way?
- Satan will also at times tempt us to desire things that *are* inherently bad. This means that we can have very real and strong desires for things that are sinful. How can we present this in a compelling way, when our culture believes we need to follow our hearts and be true to our desires?
- **Next, in 5-8** Satan tempts Jesus to find his significance and identity apart from God the Father. He does this by making himself [Satan] seem kind and by making the Father seem cruel. Satan promises Jesus the Glory and Authority of being the Messianic King by merely worshiping him, instead of obeying Father's will, which would require Jesus to first go to the cross. What are some of half-truths and lies that Satan is telling in these verses that we should be aware of?
- Satan often attempts to undermine our trust in God's goodness in order to make sin more tempting to us. Why should we trust God's goodness, even when Satan makes God's plans or God's commands seem burdensome, unfair, or unreasonable to us?
- **Finally, in verses 9-13**, we see Satan tempting Jesus to exalt himself by cheating death, instead of waiting for the Father to exalt Him at the resurrection and ascension [after *experiencing* death on the cross]. What can we learn from Jesus' refusal to give in to this temptation? How might this apply to us?
- So much of temptation is about settling for instant and cheap gratification, instead of waiting for the costlier eternal gratification promised by God. Why is this important to keep in mind? Why do you think God made delayed gratification such a big part of the Christian life? How have you experienced that in your life?
- Throughout all of this we see that Satan doesn't present himself as a hideous beast, but as Scriptures says, he masquerades as an "angel of light" (**2 Cor. 11:14**). How can knowing this help us be on guard in our fight against temptation and sin?
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** How can we find courage from this passage to fight sin and temptation? How can we find comfort from this passage when we fail to resist temptation?