

The Great Physician

Luke 4:1-13

- Jesus is now a grown man ready to begin His public ministry, Luke tells us John has fulfilled His ministry and prepared both the way and the people to hear and bear witness to the Message of Jesus the Son of God. Also John tells us before Jesus revealed Himself, He first identified with us by being baptized, and during His baptism while He prayed we read that the heavens opened, the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove and He heard a voice from heaven saying “**You are My Beloved Son in You I Am well pleased**” which reaffirmed Who He really was.

V1-13

- **V1-2** after a high time in the Lord often will come hard time from the world, the devil, or the flesh, and in Jesus case it comes directly from the Devil himself. Jesus has just heard from His Father encouraging Him that what He was doing was pleasing to Him, now the Devil will try and discourage Him into believing that what He heard wasn't really true and therefore to stop doing God's will and begin to do your will, which of course is to look out for yourself (self preservation)
- The Devil's goal is all about deceiving us into thinking that we can save ourselves without God, and he will throw everything he possibly can at you to get us to believe this destructive lie. SO **he'll use family** > spouse, children, cousins, aunts, uncles, **he'll play on fears** > finances, jobs, bills, career, health, whatever he can get to cause us to prioritize above the Lord he will use it.
- This is why Jesus is led into the wilderness, to show us how were to handle the attacks of the enemy, you see after identifying with us in baptism he now identifies with us in temptation > **Heb 4:15**- the Lord knows what all of us are going through allowing Him to sympathize with our weaknesses. Remember temptations come from Satan and are an attack to get us to rely on the flesh in order to satisfy a need > Jam 1:12-14- the enemy working through our own lusts to tempt us to perform evil acts, as he solicits and entices us to do evil.
- Trials or test are something different, unlike temptations which are meant to destroy us, trials and tests are made to build us up > **1Pet 1:6-9**- endurance in trials then allows us to comfort others > **2Cor 1:3-4**- once were comforted then our faith is strong to believe God's promises and encourage others to do the same > **Jn 16:33**- Jesus overcame so that we can be overcomers. Something else to take note of, although Jesus was filled with the Spirit and walking in the Spirit, it still led Him into the wilderness where He was tempted. Sometimes The Holy Spirit leads us into seasons of wilderness (dryness-bareness) as well as seasons of green pastures (joy-peace).
- **V3-4** Satan's first temptation is to try and get Jesus to use His Deity to get out of this difficult situation, but Jesus doesn't handle this with His Deity but instead in His humanity why? As an example for us to follow, we don't have the ability o this side of eternity to say “flame on” and poof all of our problems just turn to ashes, so Jesus provides insight into what is available for us when it comes to handling temptation in our lives and it works every time folks so pay attention.

- Notice the Devil chooses his time carefully, he didn't approach Jesus at the beginning of the forty day fast but at the end when He was at His hungriest, and therefore at His weakest before he comes. So he's using the appetites of the flesh, as he knows if we put our fleshly appetites over the **Word of God** then doing the **will of God** won't be a priority anymore. Remember God gave us these emotions, these desires, so can't we indulge as we see fit?
- This is where the Word of God comes into play, God tells us how to deal with our appetites, our desires so they won't take control of us, but we'll be in control of them. Here the appetite is strong for food, at other times it will be strong for something else > alcohol, drugs, sex, what do you do then? Just give in? No Jesus shows us exactly what were to do when facing temptation and its go to the Word of God, as He quotes **Deut 8:3** which is interesting, because of its theme.
- The Devil temptations all have the same goal (disobedience to God) but the single theme of the book of Deuteronomy is (obedience to God) so this is the book Jesus chooses to quote from. Also Satan is knowledgeable of what were capable of, if he came to us asking us to turn stone into bread it wouldn't be much of a temptation because I have no ability to do it, but he tells Jesus to turn the stones into bread why? Because He is perfectly able to do so, Satan tempts us with our abilities to satisfy our flesh and use them for our own selfish desires.
- **V5-7 first temptation** was for Jesus to "**transform the stones into bread to fulfill fleshly appetites**", **second temptation "I'll give you all the Kingdoms of the world"** personal desires. Satan knows Jesus has come to redeem the world so what does he do he offers it to Him. He tells Jesus we don't have to fight, I'll turn it over to you, he's offering the Lord the easy route, he's telling Him look your starting in the desert, hungry, God won't even give you a piece of bread, You don't have to go through that, You're the "**Son of God**" let me make it easier for you.
- You just have to do one simple thing first (worship me), the Devil gets a lot of people like this, he offers to make their lives easier, better, by giving them everything that they ask, all they have to do is bow down to him, and forget about God's purpose for their lives. **V8** Jesus answers again out of **Deut 6:13**- in this verse it includes service, Satan didn't say nothing about service, but Jesus knows that whatever we worship we also serve, and that is the trick of the Devil.
- Service to the Lord is true freedom, but service to the Devil is terrible bondage, God's pattern is to start with humility-suffering and end with glory, Satan's pattern is to start with glory and end in suffering-disappointment, as he wants us to sacrifice the eternal for the temporal and take the "easy way". With God there are no shortcuts in the Christian life, no easy way to spiritual victory or maturity, for if the Son of God had to hang on a cross before He sat on His throne, then His disciples should not expect an easier way of life either, as it's the cross then the crowns.
- **V9-11 the third temptation "is the pride"** notice Satan takes Jesus on the highest point on the holiest place "the temple. Its here that he misquotes the Word in an attempt to get Jesus to tempt God into doing something that He never said He'd do. This is why we need to know the scriptures, Satan knows the bible but has no problem misquoting it, like here he quotes **Ps 91** but he quotes it out of context in an attempt to get Jesus to act in disobedience to God's Word.

- He uses it to say no matter what position you put God in He will automatically protect you, but the scripture actually says that blessing and protection is given to the one who puts their trust in God and therefore is not tempting God but listening to and waiting on God. You've heard it said "that blessing lives next door to obedience" the children of Israel although being God's people often mistakenly believed that they could behave any kind of way and God was obligated to bless them, but we read how that thinking led to them becoming slaves to sin and the enemy.
- Satan knows that if we neglect context then we'll disregard accuracy which will lead to misunderstanding what God has said and therefore how were to live out the scriptures. **V12-13** Jesus quotes **Deut 6:16** about willingly putting God in situations where your challenging Him to bail you out in order to prove Himself. In quoting this Jesus says "**when a child of God is in the will of God, he can claim the Father's protection and care**".
- Notice Satan never leaves completely just for season or opportune time > **1 Pet 5:5-8**- we see four things in these verses > **1st submission, 2nd Humility, 3rd Self Control, 4th Alertness**. We need all four of these things to recognize and defeat the enemy.