



Luke 4:1-14

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. 14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Last Week: Jesus came and did something **new for the world**.

Big Idea: Jesus came to do what no one could do in the history of the world, **overcome temptation**.

Temptations, of course, cannot be avoided, but because we cannot prevent the birds from flying over our heads, there is no need that we should let them nest in our hair. - Martin Luther

Temptation is always **subtle**.

2 Samuel 11:1

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel.

Jesus was tempted to take **shortcuts**.

Shortcut to **food**

Shortcut to **influence**

Psalms 91:11-12

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Shortcut to a **kingdom**

How are we tempted?

Temptation 1: To love the **gifts of God** more than God Himself

Temptation 2. To go around God in pursuit of the **will of God**

Temptation 3. To interpret God **through your circumstances** rather than His word.

How are we to overcome temptation?

We are to be full of the **Spirit**.

We are to be full of the **word of God**.

Digging Deeper

What are some examples from culture or your own life of people going off the rails morally, ethically, or financially and giving into temptation?

In what ways are you tempted to put yourself ahead of others? What does it take for you to resist those temptations?

Read Matthew 4:1–10. What stands out to you in this story of Jesus resisting temptation? What details are surprising or new to you?

Homework for the Week:

List the main things you are tempted by and search scriptures that may be helpful to combat those areas. Memorize those scriptures and include them your prayer time this week.

Prayer to pray this week:

From Desiderius Erasmus (1467 - 1536)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Help us not to stray from you, for you are the Way; Nor to distrust you, for you are the Truth; Nor to rest on any other than you, as you are the Life. You have taught us what to believe, what to do, what to hope, and where to take our rest. Give us grace to follow you, the Way, to learn from you, the Truth, and live in you, the Life.

And fill me with your spirit so I can overcome temptation.

Amen

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3, 4 and Luke 4