

Sermon – Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Round 2: The Son vs Satan**

Since beginning the gospel of Luke, we have walked through Jesus' infancy narrative, his baptism, and his genealogy. In chapter 4 we arrive at the next confirmation of Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

A reminder of some key points we see in Luke's gospel:

1. As a physician and historian, Luke is focused on details: historical places and people
2. Luke has extensively interviewed and researched
3. Luke's aim is to assure Theophilus (and others) of the certainty of what has already been taught

### **1) Setting the Scene – v1-2**

- a. Full of the Holy Spirit
  - i. The Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus
    1. Conception – Luke 1:35
    2. Baptism – Luke 3:22
    3. Temptation – Luke 4:1
    4. Public ministry – Luke 4:14
    5. Hometown rejection – Luke 4:16-30
    6. Miracles
  - ii. The term is used differently here vs Zechariah, Elizabeth, or John (or Acts)
  - iii. Jesus is led by the Spirit to face Satan
- b. The Wilderness
  - i. This is a great and terrifying place where demons roam
  - ii. Deuteronomy 8:15
  - iii. Luke 11:24
- c. 40 Days
  - i. Types and Shadows
    1. Wilderness wondering – Numbers 14:34
    2. Moses fasting – Exodus 34:28
    3. Elijah's fasting – 1 Kings 19:8
- d. Being Tempted by Satan
  - i. Grammar matters – Jesus was tempted the entire 40 days
  - ii. Satan is the supreme adversary of God
    1. Ephesians 6:12 - "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."
  - iii. Satan is real and at work in a very real way
  - iv. Round 2: Adam failed where Jesus will not
- e. He Ate Nothing

- f. Application
  - i. Spiritual maturity does not secure us from temptation
  - ii. Satan hates humanity and attacks us in our points of weakness
  - iii. We are prepared for temptation before we encounter it
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

## 2) Temptation of Provision

- a. What's at stake?
  - i. Confirmation of identity
  - ii. Satan knew who he was dealing with. -Verse???
  - iii. Sonship requires obedience
  - iv. Satan's desire is to destroy the sonship
- b. Satan
  - i. The lie as old as the ages
  - ii. "Did God actually say" - Genesis 3
  - iii. Satisfaction outside of God's provision
- c. The Son
  - i. Types and shadows - Deuteronomy 8:3
  - ii. Where does Christ find sustenance – John 4:31-34
  - iii. Fully man yet fully God - John 1:14
  - iv. Jesus facing temptation as a man is our example
- d. Application
  - i. Self-gratification is our struggle
  - ii. Adam yielded to temptation to eat of the fruit while Jesus prized obedience and would not satisfy hunger
  - iii. Are we satisfied with what God provides us?

## 3) Temptation of Power

- a. What's at Stake?
  - i. Confirmation of identity
  - ii. Temptation to break the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment
  - iii. Sonship
  - iv. Not just authority, but glory
- b. Satan
  - i. Satan claims to have power over the world
    - 1. 1 John 5:19 - "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."
  - ii. Self-centered vs God-centered
- c. The Son
  - i. We serve a jealous God – Exodus 34:14
  - ii. Jesus never invalidates Satan's claim

- iii. All authority belongs to God
- d. Application
  - i. What do we trade for power, prestige, or influence?
  - ii. The moment we entertain Satan's ability to deliver on any promise, we've already lost the battle
    - 1. 2 Corinthians 11:3 - "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ."
  - iii. Adam was given dominion over the world but fell into sin while Jesus did not seek power or a kingdom for himself
  - iv. Satan will offer us a shortcut

#### 4) Temptation of Protection

- a. What's at Stake?
  - i. Confirmation of identity
  - ii. Temptation of protection
  - iii. Truth or Dare
- b. Satan
  - i. Change in tactic – Genesis 3 yet again
  - ii. Interpretation matters
- c. The Son
  - i. Deuteronomy 6:16
  - ii. Jesus displays radical obedience
- d. Application
  - i. What is the purpose of our gifts?
  - ii. Adam relinquished the promise while Jesus refused to test his invulnerability
  - iii. Know the line between trusting God and testing God
  - iv. Interpretation matters – 2 Timothy 2:15

#### 5) Rematch

- a. Every temptation" suggests the depth and breadth of the temptations
  - i. Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."
- b. "Opportune time" indicates Satan isn't finished with Jesus

#### 6) Our Battle

- a. God never tempts anyone to do evil but does use circumstances to test a person's character
  - i. James 1:13 - "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."

- b. God brings trials to strengthen our faith
  - i. Abraham and Issac – Genesis 22 confirmed in Hebrews 11:17
  - ii. Manna in the wilderness
  - iii. Hezekiah in 2 Chronicles 32
- c. Evil intentions of the enemy can be used for the good purposes of strengthening us
  - i. When we are tempted and we prevail, we put Satan to shame
  - ii. Battling our way through the gale is how God molds us and builds us up
- d. Understand the pattern of temptation displayed here:
  - i. In our fallen human hearts we desire that which God hasn't given us, we believe it is deserved, and we want to do what is needed to acquire it
  - ii. And we HATE this about ourselves at times - Romans 7:15
  - iii. Everything God has affirmed, Satan tries to negate
- e. We see the power of God's word in our resisting of temptation
  - i. We must know God's word but guard against a legalistic mindset that if we memorize all of it, we can withstand temptation and not run to Christ
  - ii. Jesus teaches us truths about God's word in the temptation account
    - 1. Applicable
    - 2. True
    - 3. Authority
    - 4. Jesus' perfect interpretation and application of God's word proves he is the son of God
    - 5. Do we rest on every word of God?
- f. The winning strategy - Jesus is God's son....His sonship is confirmed....trust him
  - i. Christ endured temptation in our place
  - ii. Jesus faces the greatest temptation ever known because he didn't give in
  - iii. Jesus lack of giving into temptation confirms him as our ever-present help in times of need and temptation
  - iv. The temptation of Jesus does not only give us a model to follow but a mercy when falling (he delivers us)
  - v. Hebrews 2:18 "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."
  - vi. In our temptation, our best strategy is to run to Jesus
    - 1. James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you..... (But we should always expect a rematch)

### Community Group Questions

1. Read Luke 4:1-13. What differences do you note in the parallel accounts found in Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 1:12-13?
2. Jesus is led into the wilderness to face Satan "by the Spirit". What encouragement can we find in this?
3. Read Ephesians 6:12. Discuss the reality of Satan at work in the world around us.
4. Two of the three temptations include Satan stating, "if you are the Son of God". Discuss Satan's intent in that statement.
5. The destruction of Jesus' sonship is the primary goal of Satan. How do we see this in each temptation account?
6. Adam failed where Jesus triumphs. How do we see this in each temptation?
7. Read 1 John 5:19. Does Satan have authority over this world? Read Psalm 24:1. How do we reconcile these two verses?
8. In the final temptation account (2<sup>nd</sup> when reading Matthew), Satan quotes scripture to Jesus. What can we learn from this? What responsibility does it convey to us?
9. Read James 1:13. How is temptation used in our lives?
10. What is a pattern we see in the temptation of Jesus? How does this apply to our lives?
11. What is the danger in us believing we can withstand temptation apart from Jesus?
12. Read Hebrews 4:15. What does this mean for those who trust in Jesus?

### Daily Devotions March 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

- **Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** – One question looming from this passage is this: Could Jesus have sinned? Read the article in the link below. How does this stir your heart?

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/could-jesus-have-sinned>

- **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** – 1 Corinthians 10:13 encourages us that God will prepare his people for temptation before he calls them to it. Contemplate that in your own life. How are you handling temptation you face?
- **Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Read the three temptation accounts found in Luke 4. While we may not be tempted to turn stones to bread, worship Satan for a kingdom, or jump from the temple, we are tempted in many other ways. What temptations do you face? How do they line-up with the temptations of Jesus? What can you learn from this?
- **Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** – In his commentary “Saint Luke” British theologian, biblical scholar, and Congregational minister GB Caird wrote “The man who turns back at his garden gate knows nothing of the strengths of the gale in comparison with the man who battles his way through to his destination.” Jesus faced the ultimate temptation because he did not give in. Adam failed. Jesus does not. Read Hebrews 4:15 and contemplate how that transforms our hearts in Christ.
- **Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Confirmation of identity is a major theme in this account of the temptation of Jesus. Satan’s aim is to destroy the sonship of Jesus and defeat God’s plan. In light of Romans 8:15-17, how can we view our identity?