

Luke 4:1-14 – 29 January 2023

“Tempted To Prove Whom We Serve”

Introduction

*Luke began w/ the angelic announcements, then births of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus

*Chap 2 told the accounts during Jesus’ adolescence

*Chap 3 we had the ministry of John the Baptist that taught us about the fabric of our relationship w/ God being one of *repentance & worshipping a reliable God*

*Today we see the temptation of Jesus at the hands of Satan in the wilderness

*If Jesus’ baptism proclaimed whom He served

*Then His temptation proves whom He serves

Read Vs 1

1. Jesus moved in all ways empowered by the Spirit of God
2. Includes being led into wilderness for a season

Read Vs 2

1. Jesus was led of Spirit to be tempted by devil
 - a. Aren't we told in 'The Lord's Prayer' to pray we can avoid this?
 - b. Yes, we'll come back to this
2. There are 3 usages or applications of '*temptation*' (or proving) in the Scriptures
 - a. Satan tempting man to do evil (I Cor 7:5, Jam 1:13-14)
 - b. Man tempting God to push Him into our will (Deut 6:16, Act 5:9, I Cor 10:9)
 - c. God tempting man so we can know what's in our own heart (Deut 8:2-3, Heb 11:17)
 - d. Like jealousy – it's only w/o sin when God does it, b/c He knows all & has all authority
3. Compare the 'Sons of God' here between 1st Adam (Luk 3:38) & last Adam (Jesus) Luk 3:22
 - a. God breathed breath of life into Adam, then he was tempted by devil & so Jesus the 2nd Adam was filled w/ Spirit, then tempted by devil
 - b. Adam faced them in easiest of conditions whereas Jesus faced these in harshest of conditions

Today, we'll see the 3 arenas of temptation in our lives and the ONE solution to them all!

1st arena of temptation is in our flesh (Vs 3-4)

Read Vs 3

1. Not indicative, but subjunctive the word “if” means ‘since’ – Satan didn’t *doubt* His deity, but wanted Him to *display* his deity
2. Satan is saying, “Why deprive yourself of needed food?” “You should *serve yourself*”
3. Satan says, “Aren’t your *physical needs* *greater* than your spiritual needs? No they’re not
4. Throughout Jesus ministry, you’ll see Him meeting physical needs in order to get to the spiritual needs of the people

Read Vs 4

1. Adam/Eve faced the same enemies that Jesus is here facing (flesh, spirit & mind)

- a. Adam/Eve fell into an image-based religion instead of Word-based relationship they had
 - b. What Adam/Eve didn't do; Jesus proves Himself worthy by believing & using the eternal Word of God
 - c. Read II Cor 10:3-4 – We fight spiritually!!
2. Jesus' response shows that the *spiritual is of greater need than the physical*
 3. Notice *Jesus points us to our need for ALL of God's Word* (II Tim 3:16)
 4. As we go thru the 3 temptations, we'll get a glimpse at the Trinity
 - a. Here, the Word of God is none other than ***Jesus Christ***

2nd arena of temptation is in our spirit (Vs 5-8)

Read Vs 5

1. He shows Jesus the glory of all the kingdoms of man that will ever be (past, present & future)

Read Vs 6-7

1. Satan wants Jesus to believe that *He can accomplish His mission in a different way*
 - a. Satan's says, 'You don't need pain of cross'
 - b. Satan says, 'You can just serve under me & it will be easier'
2. Satan had the right to offer this b/c it was his
 - a. God created it (Gen 1)
 - b. God gave all dominion to Adam (Gen 1:28)
 - c. Adam forfeited all to Satan (Rom 6:16)
 - i. We blame bad on God, but Satan runs it all
 - d. Now the good news is that Jesus won it all back at the cross (Matt 13:44, Rev 5:1-8 & 11:15)

Read Vs 8

1. Armor of God from Eph 6:11-17 – only offensive weapon is the Word of God
2. Get in line (behind Me) Satan – order of priority & of worship
3. The Trinity is seen here in that it's *the Father* that is supreme

3rd arena of temptation is in our mind (Vs 9-12)

Read Vs 9-11

1. Our 3 enemies from (Read) I John 2:16
 - a. Lust of the flesh – Jesus (stones to bread); Adam (tree was good for food)
 - b. Lust of the eyes – Jesus (throw down from temple); Adam (pleasant to the eyes)
 - c. Pride of life – Jesus (worship me); Adam (desired to make one wise)
2. Now Satan tries to introduce mental confusion by using partial truth
 - a. Satan quotes from Psm 91:11-12 leaving out the phrase ‘in all Thy ways’
 - b. Partial truth can be much harder to recognize than a whole cloth lie
 - c. Satan & his ministers can transform themselves to appear like servants of the light (II Cor 11:13-14)

Read Vs 12

1. Matt says “Again it says” (Matt 4:7)

2. We must use the Bible in light of other parts of the Bible to understand, believe & use it properly
3. Word of God isn't here to serve our will, we use the Word of God to know & serve God's will
4. The Trinity is seen here in that it's the *Spirit of God* that should lead us and not our own will

Read Vs 13-14

1. Satan shows up 3 times in the Bible
 - a. Gen 3 – tempting man about God
 - b. Job 1 – tempting God about man
 - c. Luke 4 – tempting the perfect Godman!!
2. Matthew 4:11 says that as Satan departed, God sent angels to minister or serve Jesus
3. Asking for or gaining supernatural help isn't the problem but tempting God is
 - a. Bending Him to our will is gross, but He delights to help the helpless
4. So we see that Jesus was led (vs 1), & filled (vs 1) and now empowered (vs 14) by the Spirit!!
 - a. Same is available to us today

Conclusion

We fight temptations in the same way that Jesus did in our **flesh, spirit** and our **mind**

We can't stand before the devil apart from Jesus'

Word, serving the Father and led of the Spirit

But we'll never live a sinless life, though we aim for it

Didn't you notice back in Luke 4:1-2

Jesus was led of Spirit to be tempted yet we're told in "The Lord's Prayer" of Luke 11:4 to pray that we're led not into temptation but delivered from the evil one

Jesus beat Satan's temptation for us

Heb 4:15 – Jesus was tempted yet without sin

We don't have to conquer temptation perfectly, b/c only Jesus could do that for us!!

Now we have a choice

Turn to Rom 5:12-21: You're either in Adam or Jesus

Read I Cor 15:22: Who's your representative head?

So we too are tempted to prove whom we serve, but not tempted by Satan but by our love that constrains us!!