

Lifeline

Jesus is Our Savior in Temptation

Luke 4:1-13

New Series from The Gospel of Luke: Luke, a physician, wrote a letter to Theophilus, a Roman official, telling him all about the life, ministry, death & resurrection of Jesus. The theme verse of this book...

“For the Son of Man came to seek & to save the lost.” **Luke 19:10**

“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan & was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” And the devil took him up & showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, & said to him, ‘To you I will give all this authority & their glory, for it has been delivered to me, & I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, & him only shall you serve.’” And he took him to Jerusalem & set him on the pinnacle of the temple & said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ & ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.” **Luke 4:1-13**

Main Idea: Jesus offers a Lifeline in the Midst of Every Temptation

I. The Devil Attacks Those On Mission with God

The Devil’s Plan of Attack:

- **Find the Right Moment (vs. 2)**
- **Shortcut God’s Plans (vs. 6)**
- **Twist God’s Word (vs. 9-10)**

“Jesus was not portrayed as passively being dragged out by the Evil One to endure temptation, for the initiator of this event was not the devil but God. The picture is that of the Anointed of the Lord on the offensive & led by the Spirit to confront the devil.” **Robert H. Stein**

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, & he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured & enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, & sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” **James 1:13-15**

II. The Strategy for Victory is Found in Jesus

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 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. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy & find grace to help in time of need.” **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Jesus’ Strategy Against the Devil:

- **Know the Scripture (vs. 4, 8 & 12)**
- **Put the Father First (vs. 8)**
- **Trust God in Everything (vs. 12)**

“And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.” **Luke 4:13**

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you.” **James 4:7**

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, & 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.”

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

“Now the serpent...said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’...For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, & you will be like God...(so) she took of its fruit & ate, & she also gave some to her husband who was with her, & he ate.”

Genesis 3:1, 4, 6

The devil came after Jesus in similar ways to how he attacked Adam, Eve & the Israelites. However, the result was much different!

“Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

1 Peter 1:19

Jesus doesn’t just offer a lifeline in the midst of our temptation; He IS our lifeline as we face temptation. Jesus lived the life we could not live and died the death we should have died so that we can be set free!

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Lifeline: You are on the game-show of life & God has given you a lifeline called Jesus. Will you take advantage, or continue to try to do it yourself?

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)