

The Parables of Jesus

in the Gospel of Luke (14)

Luke 4:1-22

DISCUSS

Share an experience of a lost possession being returned to you.

DISCOVER

Focus: As we enter into the wilderness of our summer break with its temptations, realize that the Lord has released and recovered us back to God as our possession to be nourished with the Word of God as our bread.

I. Read Luke 4:1-22. Retell the story.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, while being tempted for forty days by the devil.

Luke 4:2 And He did not eat anything in those days, and when they were concluded, He became hungry.

Luke 4:3 And the devil said to Him, If You are the Son of God, speak to this stone that it become bread.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone."

Luke 4:5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a moment of time.

Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him, To You I will give all this authority and their glory, because to me it has been delivered, and to whomever I want I give it.

Luke 4:7 If You therefore worship before me, it shall all be Yours.

Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said to him, It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Luke 4:9 And he led Him into Jerusalem and set Him on the wing of the temple and said to Him, If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from here;

Luke 4:10 For it is written, "To His angels He shall give charge concerning You to protect You,

Luke 4:11 And on their hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone."

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answered and said to him, It is said, "You shall not test the Lord your God."

Luke 4:13 And when the devil had concluded every temptation, he went away from Him until an opportune time.

Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee. And reports about Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Luke 4:15 And He taught in their synagogues and was glorified by all.

Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and according to His custom He entered on the Sabbath day into the synagogue and stood up to read.

Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."

Luke 4:20 And when He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant, He sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Luke 4:21 And He began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

Luke 4:22 And all bore witness to Him and marveled at the words of grace proceeding out of His mouth, and they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

Who led the Lord into the wilderness?

Who tempted the Lord?

Where was the Lord when He spoke the words of Isaiah, and who was He talking to?

What is the common thing of all the Lord's speaking in this chapter?

DEEPER

DIVE

II. Read the following excerpt:

The basic thought concerning the jubilee is that it is the sounding out of God's redemption. This sounding out, this proclamation, of God's redemption was not the proclaiming of any commandment or requirement. On the contrary, it was a proclamation of **freedom, of release**. Leviticus 25:10 says, "And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family." Here we see that the proclamation of release or liberty was related to **people and to their possessions**.

Man's **true possession** is God, and man was created as a vessel to contain God. Genesis 1:26 says that man was made in the image of God, and Romans 9 reveals that man was created to be a vessel. Man was created a vessel to contain God so that God might fill man and express Himself through man.

Consider a bottle, which is a vessel. In itself such a vessel is empty. What is the possession of a bottle? A bottle's possession is its content. The principle is the same with any kind of vessel: the possession of a vessel is the content of that vessel. If a vessel does not have its content, it does not have its possession. For a vessel to be without content, to be without its possession, is to be empty, and to be empty is to be poor.

Man was created as a vessel to contain God. If man does not contain God, this means that man does not have his possession. Without God as his content, man remains a poor, empty vessel. God's intention is to be man's content, his possession.

In the jubilee portrayed in Leviticus 25 the main thought is how to take care of people's living. In other words, the basic concern is man's enjoyment. The primary enjoyment in human life is to be filled with good food. A person whose stomach is empty will not appreciate money or material riches. He would rather have food to fill his stomach. Suppose a rich man who owns a luxury car is starving. Do you think he will be able to enjoy his car? No, he would gladly trade his car for food.

Humanly speaking, the jubilee is concerned with taking care of our eating, with filling our stomach.

The **Word of God** is our spiritual life supply. Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God." This is a quotation of Deuteronomy 8:3. God's words are more important than food. A man who lives only on physical food, not on God's word, will not fulfill God's desire. It is not enough for a person to live on food; he must also live on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.

A proper person cannot live only on physical food; he must also feed on God's word. There is a great difference between those who feed on God's word and those who do not. Most people care for eating only the physical food. They neglect God's word, because they do not know that God's word is the food that man needs. The Lord Jesus' words in Matthew 4:4 show that God's word is bread, our food.

When we are filled with the Lord's word, our spiritual sicknesses disappear. When we do not eat enough of His word and are spiritually malnourished, our sicknesses and problems return. **As Christians, our problems are due to a lack of feeding on the word and being supplied by the word.** When we eat and are filled with God's word, our problems are eliminated.

How is possession related to eating?

III. Eat Luke 4:18 and recite it to one another:

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed.

DISCIPLE

Reread the focus again.

What are some of the things we can practice to be supplied spiritually in the summer?