

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE GREAT REVERSAL" | LUKE 4: 1-13 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is the hardest thing about being really hungry?

"The Key... Facts" (Luke 4: 1-13)

Jesus was tempted in a difficult place at a time of hunger and exhaustion in three areas most struggle: provision (basic needs), protection (safety and comfort), and power (status). **Which area tends to be a struggle for you?**

"The Great Reversal" (Luke 4: 1-13)

Pastor Brian points out Jesus is undoing Adam's failure of giving into temptation in the Garden of Eden. **What does that say about Jesus and what does that mean for people?**

"How Do I Triumph Over My Temptations" (Luke 4: 1-13)

Pastor Brian shares that many people add to their problems by either thinking they are special where the rules don't apply or they are hopeless and can't have any victory over temptation. **How does a relationship with Jesus help with either of these extremes?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian addresses the question of how Jesus' triumph in the wilderness relates to our daily battle by pointing out Jesus' victory is our victory. He completely understands what we're going through and has given us His Holy Spirit and other believers to help us. Have you been battling temptation alone? Have you given up on ever having victory? Pray honestly to Him about what you're going through.

The Great Reversal

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: Retreat. Holiday. Movie Nite. Food Drive. Mission's P. Employment.
- B. Prayer: God, we count on **Your Mercy** for our Past mistakes. We count on **Your Love** for our Present needs. We count on **Your Sovereignty** for our Future.¹
 May we understand this mornings battle's *weight and significance*. We know there is *a cosmic war that is raging*. May we never forget it.

II. Slide7 Intro: The Great Reversal

- A. This is the story of *Jesus' Temptation in the Wilderness* (think desert).
1. My other titles were: Jesus' Area 51, or Jesus' Bermuda Triangle.
 But I settled with what I believe to be the Big Idea: *The Great Reversal*
- B. Let me connect, *if you are the Son*, to his baptism's, *you are the Son* (last thing spoken to him). Connect, *Holy Spirit* at His baptism to, *Holy Spirit* here.
- C. This is a real **battle**, it's a **fight**, it's a **struggle**, it's a **War!**
1. Satan is not a comic, nor a buffoon. If you don't know the **rules** you won't know the **story**. I'm coming at the story from a different angle or from a deeper level than typical (even then I have in the past).
 2. We all know what it's like coming into a movie when it's half over, and trying to figure out what's going on. (wanna test your spouses love, try that)
 3. So we will look at the bigger picture. [Oh and it's extra points in Andrew's class *Unfolding Gospel*, an assignment]

III. Slide8a THE KEY (1-15) READ 4:1-15

- A. I would like to share with you how we *normally* read the Bible, *vss* how we should.
1. Normally we take from this section: Jesus was filled with the **Holy Spirit**, so should we (*full of, led by, in the power of*). Jesus was filled with the

¹ Augustine

Word of God, so should we. Jesus had scriptures **memorized, so should we.** Jesus **resisted temptation, so should we.** Jesus relied on His **Father, so should we.**

- a) These are all *good, right, & necessary*, but there's another angle we can't miss.
- b) **Slide8b Here is the key:** Look at what **Jesus did** for us, **not just** what **we** should do better. That's what we are going to look at this morning.

IV. Slide9a **FACTS (1-1)**

A. Were there just 3 Temptations?

1. **Jesus was not tempted 3 times**, these are only the 3 that were *highlighted by Luke*. Mark's account tell us (in the orig lang)² it was *a barrage of temptations* and on top of that he adds *the fears that he was dealing with*, Mrk. 1:13 *And he was with the wild animals*.
2. **And yet** in these 3 Luke listed, I believe they are given here to represent **all Temptations** which may be summed up as: *our provision, our power, our protection*.
3. All temptation, whether it be in *school, home, office, man or woman, if you're born in Murrieta or in Moldova*. Wherever you are, and in whatever place, and in whatever time period. **All our temptations can be found in these 3 Temptations.**

B. Slide9b Where Adam failed, Jesus Triumphed. A comparison of the 1st Adam & the last Adam (both the parallels & differences)

1. **Their Environment was clearly Different:** Adam and Eve faced temptation **in a garden with food supplied on all the trees** that were all around them. **Christ** faced temptation **in the desert**, where there was **no food**, and where He was very **hungry**. [Have any donut in the case ... but *Apple Fritter*]
 - a) **So, Adam** had everything, and **failed**. **Jesus** had nothing, and **succeeded**.

² Mark 1:13 the present participle "being tempted" modifies the imperfect main verb "was" indicating that Jesus was continually being tempted throughout all 40 days.

2. **The Initiative was Different.** Satan comes looking for *the man and the woman* in the garden. But Christ goes after Satan in the desert.

a) The spirit led Him into confrontation with the devil. Christ stalked Satan out, drew him in the open and initiated the confrontation.

C. **Slide9c** We are positive in Scripture:

1. **Jesus Never Actually Sinned** (Heb.4:15 *yet w/o sin*).

a) Heb.4:14-16 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens* (Ascension), **Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession** (testimony). *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. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (like where we are being tempted)

2. **Slide9d Jesus was Tempted & these were Real Temptations** (Heb.4:15 *as we are*)

a) **Is it** fair to say Jesus was *tempted as we are*, I mean He is God right?

b) Look at it this way, Jesus was like the 1st Adam, in that before Adam's fall Adam had *no original sin, no fallen human nature*, and Adam was able to *experience real Temptations*. [of course Adam fell to it, Jesus did not]

c) Jesus wasn't a robot, "*no-thanks-I-don't-want-bread!*" **No!** the bible says, *he was hungry*. Whether it's your *raging hunger, or raging libido, or raging temper*, He joins us in that point of vulnerability.

d) **Real Temptations:** Many theologians have pointed out that, "*Only those who successfully resists a temptation to the end most fully feels the force of that temptation!*"

(1) **Slide9e The Weightlifter** who successfully lifts & holds over head the heaviest weight feels the force of it more fully than one who attempts to lift it ½ way & drops it.

(2) **So any Christian** who has successfully faced a temptation *to the end* knows that that is far more difficult than giving in to it at once.

(3) So it is w/**Jesus**, every one He faced, the temptations **were real** and in fact **most real** *because* he took them *to the end* ... and never gave in, and always triumphed.

3. Slide9f Jesus **proved** what James said, *resist the devil & he'll flee from u.*
- a) Satan came at Jesus many more times: in His **ministry**, through the **religious leaders**, at **Golgotha**, and *Jesus triumphed every time.* And Jesus will Triumph over him **in the end**.

V. Slide10a **THE GREAT REVERSAL**

A. The Importance of the Story is ... It's the beginning of *The Great Reversal*.

1. Jesus starts to reverse the *ravages of the Fall*. Where **Adam** turned the garden into a wilderness; **Jesus** goes into the wilderness to turn it into a garden.

B. Slide10b The Greatest Difference was **The Outcome**.

1. **Adam's failure** *passed on the effects* to all who *derive their life* from him. (Adam's failure brought *misery*).
- a) **By nature** we belong to Adam who *failed*. We share in his failure. *We are under sin.* (Rom.3:9)
2. **Christ's triumph** *passes on the effects* to all who *draw on new life* from Him.
- a) Christ's triumph over temptation has **huge significance for us**.
- b) By **grace** and through **faith** we belong to Christ who **triumphed**. *We share in His triumph. We are under grace.*
3. **Result:** the weakness of **Adam** who failed is in you, **so** be on your guard against temptation today. **But** the strength of **Christ** who triumphed is also in you by the Holy Spirit, **so** when you're tempted today, stand firm.
4. Slide10c **Poem:** O loving wisdom of our God, when all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight, and to the **rescue** came.
Oh wisest love, that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,

Should **fight again** against the foe, should fight and should **prevail**.

VI. Slide 11a **HOW DO I TRIUMPH OVER MY TEMPTATIONS?**³

A. Don't you wonder ... **why is it that after becoming a Christian I still have these thoughts?** Or now as a mature believer why won't they go away?

A: Because it is part of the **Normal Christian Life!** Why do we buy into the **lie** that the Christian life is *untroubled and tranquil*, 1000 x's **No!**

1. **Know that your intellect** cannot deliver you from evil.
2. **Know that** Tempted and Tried **He** was **Triumphant** in every way.
3. **Know that** we are **not** in the temptation by **accident**. *It might be **you're doing** that got you there, or **His doing** that brought you there.* Either way it's not by **accident**.
4. **Know that** there is only **one foot that can take out the snake!** Gen.3:15
5. **Know that** we must think more precisely about **sin** and **temptation**.
 - a) **There are some** who are being **tempted** and say *I am **sinning***. There are others who are **sinning** and *delude themselves in believing* they are being **tempted**. **No they are different.**
6. **Know that** there is a risk where we usually run to **1 of 2 extremes:**
 - a) Russell Moore explains, *"You start to see yourself as either **special** or as **hopeless**, and that the normal boundaries don't seem to apply. It might be that you are involved in certain patterns right now and that you would, if asked, would be able to tell me exactly why they are morally and ethically wrong. It's not that you are deficient in the cognitive ability to diagnose the situation. It's instead that you slowly grow to Believe that **your situation is exceptional**. I am a God. And then you find all kinds of reasons why this technically isn't theft or envy or hatred or fornication or abuse of power or whatever."*
 - (1) **You will not overcome temptation.** **You won't!** (in this life). It is the struggle of normal Christianity. You must fight the fight. Only **Jesus**

³ Exerts from Tempted and Tried, by Russell Moore.

can help you in this battle. It's the **Holy Spirits** job to, *Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.* Peter Dunne

b) So if you think you are you are **special**, that you suffer no temptation or have a good grip on temptation...*I'd like to talk to you after?*

c) So if you think you are you are **hopeless**, and feel that temptation is so overwhelming for you and that no one understands ... please remember ... **Slide11b** *Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.* Heb. 2:18 and that *God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.* 1Cor.10:13

7. Know that Jesus was in the desert fighting for **you**, and facing **every** temptation, that is **common to all** mankind.

a) Then you'll see Him as a person who understands, wherever you are now, and in whatever temptation you face.

VII.Slide12 HOW DOES JESUS'S TRIUMPH IN THE WILDERNESS RELATE TO OUR DAILY BATTLE?

A. Temptations must be understood in terms of *warfare*, encouraging us with the truth that *Victory has already been Secured through the Triumph of Christ.*

B. Jesus is **not just an example** for us in the wilderness.

1. When we understand **what the gospel is**, that *by faith we are joined to Christ like a head is joined to a body.* We are in the desert. *We already have been tempted. Just like we have been crucified and raised from the dead. You are already seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

C. And at the same time, it is not just "we" who are going through a temptation.

1. Jesus *identifies Himself with us* in the desert, and then Jesus by the spirit continues to *live and work within us.*

2. We are just like Job, in which Satan could only go this far, and no further.
1 Cor. 10:13 *He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand ... he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- D. **Listen:** Here's our good news this morning, This is not about *me, myself and I*, in a room by myself battling these things, **but** about **the gospel & a gospel community**, being **vulnerable** and *fighting the fight of faith* together.
- E. **Slide13** Martin Luther last word in *A mighty fortress is our God. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not **the Right Man** on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who That may be? **Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same, and **He must win the battle.*****
- F. **End prayer:** **Jesus** you succeeded when we have failed. **Jesus** you achieved righteousness, when we have not. **Jesus** you acted radically different from the 1st Adam, which is the Adam we have **imitated**. So we ask, *lead us not to the place of testing, but please deliver us from evil one.*
- G. Keywords: faith, fasting, God, Gospel, grace, Holy Spirit, Jesus, mercy, temptation.