

Episode: Luke Series No. 4

Narrator: Satan

Primary Scriptures: Luke 4: 1-13

Story Summary: Jesus in the wilderness, Satan's story

Location: Kingdom of Judea

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 4:8, 4:13

In the Old Testament, Satan is only discussed by name these three times: the testing of Job,¹ the counting of David's fighting men,² and the matter of Joshua the high priest.³ In the New Testament, Satan is referred to by name quite often. It appears that much of the insight about spiritual beings happened in the period between the Old Testament and New Testament, and through Jesus himself.

The ministry of Jesus starts when he is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. There are few places on Earth as desolate as the wilderness just a few miles east of Jerusalem. It is a light beige, desert-dry landscape of rocks, canyons and mountains, and when you stand in the midst of it, you feel as if you are a million miles away from the nearest human being or body of water. It is no wonder Satan chose to spiritually attack Jesus in the wilderness after he had fasted for forty days.

Throughout the New Testament, Satan is portrayed as a living personality who relentlessly attacks humans physically and spiritually. Modern society has effectively destroyed fear of Satan by portraying him as a comic character or rendering him harmless, if not non-existent. In contrast, the New Testament writers consistently warned of Satan's power to destroy.

¹ Job 1, 2 Although the KJV names him in one Psalm, too.

² 1 Chronicles 21:1

³ Zechariah 3:1-2

Discussion Questions:

1. If you were Satan, would you rather people feared you or believed that you do not exist? Why?
 2. How might the Internet and smartphones be considered tools of Satan?
 3. How might the Internet and smartphones be considered as weapons *against* Satan?
-
1. They keep you occupied with non-spiritual matters, offer all types of temptations, often makes fun of God and his people. 3. They offer full-time access to the Bible, gives you search and study tools to help you learn the Bible, offer unlimited numbers of sermons and lessons about the Bible, offer unlimited number of church services to watch.

Application Questions

1. How can you teach your children and friends about the reality of Satan and his influence on their lives?
2. Do your actions indicate that you do or do not believe that Satan exists and is a powerful negative influence in your life?
3. What kind of temptations do you regularly give into? What steps could you take to stay away from those temptations or learn to overcome them?
4. How much of your life should be spent resisting Satan, and how much should be spent following Jesus? In what ways do you need to reorient your life to properly balance this ratio?

Application Questions for Teens

1. Which type of person is more harmful to the cause of Jesus: an atheist, or someone who claims to be a Christian but does not truly follow Jesus?
2. Do you know of any friends who believe that Satan does not exist? How would you prepare yourself to be ready to discuss this topic with them?
3. Think about how many hours you spend on your phone each day. Statistics tell us that number is probably between 5 and 7 hours per day. How much of that time on your phone are you spending reading the Bible, spreading God's word, or pleasing God?
4. How does Satan use your phone to cause you harm? How can you mitigate those things? [creates desires in you, distracts you from important things, causes you to ignore other people, keeps you from learning how to resolve conflicts with others]