

Luke 4:1-30

Satan Tempts Jesus

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’ ”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’ ”

²⁴ “I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Luke 4:1-30

1. Have you ever been very hungry or thirsty?
2. Jesus fasted for 40 days. How would you feel after 40 days with no food? How long can you fast (no food) before dying? How long can you go without drinking before you die?
3. What physical or mental needs and desires make us vulnerable to temptation?
4. In what situations are you sometimes tempted to put the Lord to the test?
5. Where did Jesus get the answers he gave the Devil in verses 4, 8, and 12? How did Jesus and the Devil use the Bible differently (verses 9-12)?
6. How did Jesus resist temptation? How can you become skillful in using the Bible as Jesus did? Since the Bible can be misused, how can we learn to use it in the right way?
7. What does the old saying mean, "You can never go home again"?
8. What was Jesus' reputation at this point in his life (verses 14-15)?
9. How did the audience initially respond to Jesus' reading of the scripture (verses 20, 22)?
10. What main points did Jesus make to the people of his hometown (v 24-27)? (1 Kings 17:14-16, 2 Kings 5:1-14)
11. Why were the people angry with what Jesus said? Do you get angry if someone tells you the truth about yourself? Why do we sometimes avoid facing the truth about ourselves? To what extent will people go to avoid hearing the truth about themselves?
12. What kind of reception from others should you expect when you speak the truth?
13. How did Jesus demonstrate the importance of worship? How about the importance of knowing the scriptures?

Luke 4:1-30 — Notes to Leader

3. A: Luke 4:4 Deut. 8:3 - He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Luke 4:8 Deut. 6:13 - Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

Luke 4:11 Psalm 91:11,12 - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; ¹² they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Luke 4:12 Deut. 6:16 - Do not test the LORD your God as you did at Massah.

6. A: MEMORY verses!

10. A: Jesus referred to scripture describing two prophets (Elijah and Elisha) helping two non-Israelites (gentiles). Jesus' point was that when Israel rejected God's messenger of redemption, God sent him to the Gentiles—and so it will be again if they refuse to accept Jesus (Luke 10:13-15)

1 Kings 17:14-16 - ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' "

¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

2 Kings 5:13-14 - 13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Luke 10:13-15 - "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.