



### Week 3: Battle with the Devil

Key Texts: Luke 4:1-13  
Sunday, June 14, 2020

What do we do when temptation is high? We do what Jesus did by combating the devil with truth and God's word.

<sup>4</sup>Satan, who is the God of this world, has **blinded the minds** of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. **They don't understand** this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

#### Setting the Scene:

Set in the wilderness where John has been baptizing, now completes Jesus's preparation before his public ministry begins in 4:14. He must face a crucial spiritual test as he confronts the "leader of the opposition." This scene thus provides the unseen background to the struggles ahead; behind human opposition stands a more threatening supernatural force.<sup>1</sup>

*Life is a hard fight, a struggle, a wrestling with the principle of evil, hand to hand, foot to foot. Every inch of the way is disputed. -Florence Nightingale*

*The existence of the devil is so clearly taught in the Bible that to doubt it is to doubt the Bible itself. – Archibald Brown*

- Satan will tempt followers of Jesus to give in and give up. Don't listen to him; you have a way out through Jesus. Jesus repeatedly battles unseen demonic work all throughout the gospels. If we do not believe in an unseen world, we are rejecting the words of Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>**For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies**, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

<sup>8</sup>Stay alert! Watch out for your **great enemy**, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (We respect our foe but do not fear him.)

- What do we know about Him? He Deceives ( 2 Cor 4:4), Destroys lives (Hebrews 2:14), Persecuting the Saints (Revelation 2:10) Preventing ministry (1 Thess 2:18) Promoting Division ( 2 Cor 2:10-11) Plants Doubt (Genesis 3:1-5) Produces sects and cults (1 Tim. 4:1)Provokes sin (anger, pride, worry, self-reliance, discouragement, worldliness, lying, immorality)
- A temptation is "an enticement to do something wrong by promise of pleasure or gain." It is "the act of tempting, especially to evil." Temptation comes from evil desires inside us, not from God.

*Temptation is not sin; it is the call to battle. Frederick P. Wood<sup>2</sup>*

#### The Strategy of the Devil

##### 1. **Desire and Doubt (Luke 4:1-4)**

- Satan can not be in more than one place at a time.
- Satan battled Jesus in the wilderness.
- Followers of Jesus have someone who will war with Satan on our behalf.
- Jesus fasted for 40 days, alone in the wilderness. He not only is God but man as well. He would have been hungry, tired, and isolated. I believe this is when the enemy will attack. He attacks when we are vulnerable. Satan and demons do not have the same physical limitations. He is someone we should not take lightly.
- God knows our limitations. However, we have the Holy Spirit, whose power has no limitations.

<sup>1</sup> France, R. T. (2013). [Luke](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 62). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

<sup>2</sup> Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., Taylor, L. C., & Osborne, G. R. (1997). [Luke](#) (p. 85). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

- Sometimes, we may end up in the "wilderness" because we follow Jesus. However, I will instead be in the wilderness than having everything without Jesus.

*The temptation is for him to use his undoubted authority as God's Son to satisfy his personal need<sup>3</sup>*

- He will try to cast seeds of doubt. "If..." Satan will try to get us to doubt who Jesus is.
- Doubt of provision
- Doubt of care

## **2. Power and Worship (Luke 4:5-8)**

- Satan will try to lure you into sin. (Think fishing)
- Jesus had two choices – To take the easy road and lose his relationship with God the Father or to have pain and no pleasure in exchange for keeping his relationship with the Father.

*<sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>26</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?<sup>[a]</sup> Is anything worth more than your soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. Matthew 16:25-27*

- This temptation is not ask on our wisdom and desires rather than waiting on God. "Why wait?"
- The enemy will do what he can to divert us from the gospel.

## **3. Pride and Justifying Sin (Luke 4: 9-13)**

- Important principle: Just because you know about God and the scriptures, does not mean you have a relationship with Him.
- Be careful; the enemy would love for you to justify sin. Obviously Satan was misinterpreting Scripture, making it sound as though God protects even through sin, removing the natural consequences of sinful acts.
- Culture may conflict with the Bible. Sometimes there is a temptation to want to change the Bible or omit certain teachings rather than our behavior.

### **Last Thoughts:**

The truth about Jesus is he understands temptation and understands the pain, and through him, we will destroy the works of Satan.

We have the power(HS) to resist Satan and demonic attacks.

*<sup>4</sup> But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 John 4:4*

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<sup>3</sup> France, R. T. (2013). [Luke](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 63). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.