

# 'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #5

## Luke 4:1-30 (NASB)

### Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness<sup>2</sup> for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.<sup>3</sup> And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, "**It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'**"

<sup>5</sup> And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.<sup>6</sup> And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.<sup>7</sup> "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "**It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'**"

<sup>9</sup> And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here;<sup>10</sup> for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,'<sup>11</sup> and, 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"<sup>12</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "**It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'**"

<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

Vs. 1 Jesus left His baptism "full of the Holy Spirit."

- The Holy Spirit led Him around in the desert for 40 days.
  - **This is probably symbolic of Israel's 40 years in the desert.**
- During that 40 days Satan tempted Jesus.
  - **Interestingly, Jesus responded to each of Satan's temptations by quoting from Deuteronomy... verses that dealt with Israel in the desert.**

**Q: What does the fact that Jesus was full of the Spirit and led into the desert, tell us about temptation?**

- Being tempted isn't always a sign that something is wrong! We will face temptation when we are at our very best too.

**Q: Vs. 2 While Jesus was being tempted, He fasted. Why did Jesus fast?**

- John lived in the same wilderness (Mark 1:4-6), and food was available... so fasting was something Jesus chose to do.
- Fasting was Jesus' response to temptation.
  - All humans have three parts—spirit, soul, and body (1Thess 5:23)—that wrestle for control.
  - Fasting humbles us and strengthens our spirit's control over our body and soul.

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## Extra Info On The Temptation of Jesus:

The story of the temptation of Jesus had to come from Jesus Himself... no one else was there, and no one would have known about it if Jesus hadn't told the story.

- Matthew and Luke each record a different chronology of the temptations... no one knows for sure why they swap the order of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> temptations.
  - My guess is Luke was being chronological; and Matthew was being topical, or communicating a theme (i.e., that Jesus was tempted to show Himself, not only to the Jews at the temple, but to the whole world).

Jesus probably fasted from food, not water.

- 40 days is not too long to survive without food, but a human would die in just a few days without water.
- **To survive this fast through supernatural power would be to defeat the purpose.**

- Jesus was tempted in every way a human can be tempted, which allowed Him to experience our humanity ([Heb 4:15](#)).

**There were 3 temptations, and since Jesus was tempted in all ways just like us ([Heb 4:15](#)), there may be some symbolic value to the temptations Jesus faced.**

- We have 2 models in scripture of how to respond to temptation: Jesus and Eve.
    - [1 John 2:15-17](#) says “*all that is in the world*” is: 1) the lust of the flesh, 2) the lust of the eyes, and 3) the pride of life.
    - Eve was tempted in these 3 areas.
      - “*When the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*” ([Gen 3:6](#))
        - “*good for food*” = lust of the flesh
        - “*pleasing to the eye*” = lust of the eyes
        - “*desirable to make one wise*” = pride of life
    - Jesus was tempted in these same 3 areas.
      - Turning stones to bread = lust of the flesh
        - Lust of the flesh is not just sexual... hunger is also a legitimate desire.
      - Being given authority to rule = lust of the eyes
        - Jesus had, no doubt, desired to bring an end to earthly suffering and injustice.
      - Being saved by angels = pride of life
        - Everyone would know who He really was.
  - Eve allowed herself to consider the temptation.
    - **Eve chose to rely on herself and feed herself, rather than trust God.**
  - Jesus wouldn’t consider the tempting thing... instead He shot it down with scripture.
    - **Jesus chose to be humbled by His hunger, and rely on God to sustain Him.**
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**Vs. 3** In the first temptation, Satan tempts Jesus to turn rocks into something to eat.

- Jesus had been fasting 40 days, so He was at the point of having to eat or die.

**Q: Jesus quoted [Deut 8:3](#) as a response to the temptation. What insight does this quote give us?**

- God used hunger to humble the Israelites... and Jesus too!
  - **Hunger is an undeniable need.**
  - God put the Israelites in a place where they would have to depend on Him rather than themselves.
  - Jesus was perfected in that He learned to be totally obedient to God ([Heb 5:8](#); [Phil 2:8](#)).
- God still uses hunger to teach us dependence and obedience.
  - Our undeniable need may not always be physical hunger.
- **Staying in step with the Spirit means God will likely lead you into the wilderness at times ([James 1:2-4](#)) to face your undeniable need, and learn to depend on God.**

**Vs. 10-11** Satan had caught on to the fact the Jesus was using scripture to overcome temptation, so Satan tried to use scripture against Him.

- Satan quoted [Psa 91:11-12](#)... but Satan left out, “*in all your ways.*”
    - God “*keeps you*” when your ways are the right ways (i.e., His ways. [Eph 2:10](#)).
      - If you walk in God’s way, His angels are there to secure you and “keep you.”
    - God doesn’t “*keep you*” when your ways are rebellious and wrong.
  - Jesus quotes [Deut 6:16](#) back... “*You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.*”
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## **Extra Thoughts On Tempting/Testing God:**

**Q: What does it mean to tempt/test God?**

- It doesn’t mean living dangerously and trusting God.

- You are not tempting God or testing Him when you are doing what God says to do.
  - The question is, “Who is calling the plays?”
    - If I’m putting myself in a dangerous position because I’m obeying God, then God will protect and “keep me.”
    - If I’m putting myself in a dangerous position that God never told me to put myself in, then I’m tempting or testing God.
      - It’s like saying I’m going to do what I want to do, and trust God to bail me out if I’ve made a dumb mistake.
  - **Tempting/testing is treating God like an errand boy to get you out of your mistakes.**
    - That is **not** OK!
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Vs. 13 “...he left Him until an opportune time.”

- [James 4:7](#) says the devil will leave if we resist him... but we can count on him coming back!
- Satan will come at us again in an “opportune time.”

### Luke 4:14-15

*“And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. <sup>15</sup> And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.”*

- [Matt 4:12](#); [Mark 1:14](#) Apparently, the thing that got Jesus headed to Galilee was hearing that John had been put into prison.
  - John wasn’t put into prison immediately after Jesus’ baptism.
  - [John 1:29](#) picks up the story when Jesus came back from the wilderness and being tempted.
    - There were 4 days in a row recorded where John the Baptist and his disciples had some kind of interaction with Jesus ([John 1:29-51](#)).
  - Lots of things happened before Jesus returned to Galilee... turning water into wine ([John 2:1-11](#)), cleansing the temple ([John 2:13-17](#)), talking with Nicodemus ([John 3:1-15](#)) ... but all this happened before John was put into prison ([John 3:24](#)).
  - The first 4 chapters of John’s gospel all happened before Jesus returned to Galilee.

*“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit”*

- Jesus was **“filled with the Spirit”** when the Spirit came on Him at His baptism ([Luke 3:22](#)), and **“led by the Spirit”** into the wilderness ([Luke 4:1](#)), and now He returns in the **“power of the Spirit.”**
  - **Luke wants to make it very clear: Jesus was not doing His own thing... the Spirit of His Father was filling Him, leading Him and empowering Him.**
    - [Matt 12:28](#) Jesus claimed His power came from the Spirit of God.
    - [Phil 2:7](#) Jesus emptied Himself of His divine abilities and became like one of us... He couldn’t do everything God could do anymore... His power came from the Spirit.

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## **Extra Thoughts On Being Filled, Led, and Empowered by the Spirit:**

In the book of Acts, the apostles were filled, led, and empowered by the same Spirit.

- **Christians today are filled, led, and empowered by the same Spirit... even if we aren’t doing supernatural things; there is something supernatural about being led by the Spirit. ([Rom 8:14](#); [Gal 5:18](#))**
  - The Spirit will put things on our hearts, and move us along God’s path when we stay in step with Him ([Gal 5:25](#)).
- Many of the gifts of the Spirit look pretty normal (like giving, serving, leading), even non-Christians can do many of them.
  - But when we are doing them because we are led and empowered to do them by the Spirit, God is working through us the same way He did through Jesus and the apostles.

## Luke 4:16-30

*“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, <sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”** <sup>20</sup> And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”** <sup>22</sup> And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, **“Is this not Joseph’s son?”** <sup>23</sup> And He said to them, **“No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’”** <sup>24</sup> And He said, **“Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> “But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; <sup>26</sup>and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> “And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”** <sup>28</sup> And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; <sup>29</sup> and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But passing through their midst, He went His way.”*

Nazareth was one of the Galilean cities, and also where Jesus grew up.

- This story is only told by Luke... the other gospels don't mention it.
  - [Matt 13:54](#) and [Luke 6:1](#) were probably a different visit to Nazareth.
  - [Matt 4:13](#) sounds like Matthew knew of this visit to Nazareth, but only Luke gives the details of it.

### **The people of Jesus' hometown felt like they knew Jesus, which was a problem.**

- They knew Him as a carpenter, as Joseph's kid, as a friend or a neighbor... before He began moving in the power of the Spirit.
- They had begun to hear rumors about Jesus... probably because Jesus went through Capernaum first ([Luke 4:23](#)).

### **Q: How many people today think they know Jesus but really don't?**

- They may have gone to church all their lives, and heard all the stories about Him, but they have never really gotten to know Him.
- [John 14:9](#) It is possible, just like with Phillip, to be around Jesus and yet not really know Him.
- Sometimes we can look at something so often and become so familiar with it that we don't really see it. The same is true of the way we look at people, and yet don't really see them.

Jesus was handed the scroll and asked to read from Isaiah [61:1-2a](#).

- *“recovery of sight to the blind”* is not in [Is 61:1](#) in our Bibles because Jesus was reading from the Septuagint... a Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. Our Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew.
  - Our English translation of the Hebrew renders *“recovery of sight to the blind”* as *“the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”*
  - This passage is a reference to the year of Jubilee... a year every 50 years during which all captives would be set free and all slaves would be released.
- Jesus sat down and told them that today this passage was being fulfilled... *“I'm the one who was anointed by the Spirit of God to make these announcements.”*
  - The people were blown away by the way Jesus taught... Jesus taught with authority ([Luke 4:32](#)).

- Scribes and teachers would never have said, “This scripture is about me, and I’ve just fulfilled it”, yet they saw Jesus’ words as gracious and acceptable ([Luke 4:22](#)).

**Q: What does Jesus mean when He says, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself!’”?**

- This is a common proverb like “charity begins at home.”
- Jesus is saying that He expected people to say to Him, “You’re a healer, why don’t you heal your own people; your own family? Why heal people in other towns when we need your help right here?”
- The rest of the verse, “*Whatever **we heard** was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well*”, is pretty much the explanation of how Jesus thought that proverb would be applied to Him.

**Q: Jesus gave two examples of prophets who were not accepted in their own hometowns. What was so infuriating about these two examples that would make His hometown want to kill Him?**

- Jews were racists. They felt superior to everyone else because they went to the right church, came from the right family, and knew all the rules.
- Jesus was saying that He had done things for others that He would not do for them... just like Elijah had to go outside of Israel.
- Jesus was saying they were like the Jews of Elijah’s day who were unfaithful and didn’t receive God’s help.
  - If the people of Nazareth were too familiar with Him to have faith, then people elsewhere would see the miracles... and they wouldn’t.
- When Jesus read [Isaiah 61:1-2a](#), He didn’t finish the reading [Isaiah 61:2b](#) like they were expecting Him to.
  - [Isaiah 61:2b](#) says, “*And the day of vengeance of our God.*”
- Taking this omission, together with Jesus’ examples in the past of God blessing faithful gentiles and overlooking unfaithful Jews, was apparently more than they could bear.
- They wanted and expected God to set the Jewish nation above every nation, and reward them based on their heritage.
- But Jesus was saying their church, their knowledge of the rules, and their heritage didn’t matter... faith is what matters.

When someone was stoned, it was common for him or her to be thrown off a cliff or down a hill first... presumably to injure them enough that they couldn’t run away. This is what they were trying to do to Jesus.

- No one knows for sure what Luke means when he says Jesus “passed through their midst.”
- It could mean He supernaturally walked right through them, or it could mean He just intimidated them and walked right through the crowd.

## Follow Up Assignment

Q: What undeniable need has God allowed you to encounter?

- How do you respond to your hunger?

Q: Tempting/testing is treating God like an errand boy to get you out of your mistakes. Are you testing/tempting God in some area of your life?

- Do you create opportunities for temptation?

Q: [James 4:7](#) says the devil will leave if we resist him... but we can count on him coming back! What can you do to be ready for him?