

The Life of Christ

Lesson 1

Luke 4:1-13

January 10, 2021

Battling with Temptation

Introduction

Verse 2 of our passage this week says: “At the end, he was hungry.” What a laughable statement! Luke just described to us that Jesus went 40 days without food. “He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.” Well, of course, he was hungry! Most of us get hungry if we go 40 minutes without food!

Insert Satan into our story, asking Jesus to use his power to give his body the nourishment needed to stay alive, and thus disobeying and distrusting God. Jesus knew that life requires obedience to God, even more than the need to give the body physical food. He trusted that God would sustain him.

It is easy to read these verses in retrospect. We can see that Jesus did indeed survive and made it through his encounter with Satan despite the temptations. It is more challenging, though, when we are going through our own temptations to trust that God is in control and will ultimately deliver us from Satan, even if we suffer in this life. How do we make it through? How do we go through hard times believing that God is in control and has our good in mind? Let’s read our passages and find out.

Memory verse: “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”—Luke 4:8

Pray and read Luke 4:1-13. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (Luke 4:1)
2. Who tempted Jesus? (Luke 4:2)
3. What was Jesus' response to Satan's first temptation? (Luke 4:4)
4. What did Satan show Jesus in the second temptation, and what was his offer to Jesus? (Luke 4:5-6)
5. What did Satan want Jesus to do to obtain all the authority over the kingdoms of the world? (Luke 4:7)
6. Where did the devil take Jesus the third time? (Luke 4:9)
7. What was Jesus' third and final response when Satan told him to throw himself from the temple? (Luke 4:12)
8. What does Luke tell us Satan does as a result? (Luke 4:13)

What does the passage mean?

1. In this story, Satan tried to use God's words (Scripture) to tempt Jesus. Satan used this tactic on Eve as well. (Read Genesis 2:16-17, then read Genesis 3:1-5). How well did Eve remember God's commands? How did Satan use his knowledge of Scripture against Eve?
2. Jesus wasn't alone. He had the Holy Spirit by His side the entire time. God has promised this same aid to those who repent of their sin and return to Him. What can the Holy Spirit do in our lives? (Mark 13:11; John 14:15-17, 26, 16:12-15)
3. Being tempted is not a sin in and of itself, but it does lead us to sin. What does the Bible say to do when we are tempted? (Matthew 6:13; Luke 22:40; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:11; James 4:7)

4. Satan seems to know our weaknesses and which temptations will cause our faith to falter. This thought seems scary, but who is sovereign over Satan? (Psalm 145:13; Daniel 7:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Colossians 2:15) Why is this important to remember?

Applying the passage

1. Those who oppose Christianity consistently misquote Scripture or use Scripture out of context, often believing they see it correctly. There are many “preachers” who do it as well. How well are you able to discern when Scripture is being misused? What is the importance of knowing God’s word, especially when confronted with passages from the Bible?

