

February 26, 2023 – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Luke 4:1-13** – “Use Scripture to Resist Temptation”

- A. When kingdoms went out to war, each side could offer their greatest warrior to serve as a champion to combat one another to decide which side was victor instead of having a massive amount of bloodshed. We can look at Jesus as the Champion of God who fought on our behalf.
- B. In **Lu 3:21f**, Jesus was baptized by John to inaugurate His ministry as Messiah & Savior. The Holy Spirit came upon Him to strengthen Him for that endeavor.

You must use Scripture to resist & overcome temptations.

I. THE REASON JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY SATAN  
II. LIKE JESUS, USE SCRIPTURE TO FACE TEMPTATION

I. THE REASON JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY SATAN → **v1**

- A. One might say the reason Jesus was tempted was because the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
1. The Holy Spirit was the means by which Jesus was brought to face Satan’s schemes, but that doesn’t explain why.
  2. **Heb 4:15-16** says, “**we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.** <sup>16</sup>**Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy & find grace to help in time of need.**”
    - a. This tells us of the greatness of His temptation & some of what it accomplished for us:
      - 1) Jesus as the Christian’s sympathetic high priest.
      - 2) Confidence to draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy & find grace.
    - b. Still, this passage does not tell us why the temptation was necessary.
- B. **1 Cor 15** is key to finding out why: “**The 1<sup>st</sup> man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit... The 1<sup>st</sup> man is from the earth, earthy; the 2<sup>nd</sup> man is from heaven” (**vv45-47**).**
1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam, as our covenant head, failed when tempted by the devil. This brought sin into the world.
  2. Jesus came as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam— the new covenant head for all who put their faith in Him.
    - a. He had to face the devil to be tempted to fulfill His role as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, our new representative. Jesus came to accomplish all that the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam failed in doing.
    - c. God required Adam to give perfect, personal, & perpetual obedience to fulfill the covenant of works.
      - 1) He was capable of that before his fall into sin; however, he failed.
      - 2) Jesus offered perfect, personal, & perpetual obedience to the Father.
- C. The full gospel is more than the passive obedience of Christ on the cross wherein He suffered the Father’s holy & just wrath due for the sins of the elect
1. “Shortly before his death on January 1, 1937, Dr. J. Gresham Machen dictated a final telegram: ‘I’m so thankful for the active obedience of Christ. No hope without it.’... Earlier, Machen said , “If Christ had merely paid the penalty of sin for us & had done nothing more we should be at best back in the situation in which Adam found himself when God placed him under the covenant of works.” ([https://opc.org/nh.html?article\\_id=383](https://opc.org/nh.html?article_id=383))
  2. Jesus offered perfect, personal, & perpetual obedience to the Father, fulfilling the covenant of works. That is Christ’s active obedience which is also given to believers by saving faith.

## II. LIKE JESUS, USE SCRIPTURE TO FACE TEMPTATION

- A. It would be wrong if I said, “If you are tempted, you should use Scripture.” The question is not if but when.
- B. There were 3 temptations Satan used in his scheme to make our Lord Jesus stumble.
1. When Jesus had not eaten for 40 days, he said “**If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.**”
    - a. The devil tried to take advantage of Christ’s weakness & hunger.
      - 1) He will try the same to tempt you in all sorts of circumstances.
      - 2) He is like a wolf or leopard which goes after the weakest member of the flock.
      - 3) Be on guard; take caution against Satan’s brutal tactics.
    - b. Jesus answered this temptation in v4: “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone,’**” using Deut 8:3.
  2. Since tempting Jesus with food failed, Satan tried to entice Him with power instead. → vv5-7
    - a. A temptation for Christ would have been to obtain earthly glory without suffering the cross & especially the wrath of the Father due for sinners.
    - b. In v8, Jesus used Deut 6:13 when He answered Satan, “**It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God & serve Him only.’**”
  3. → Look at vv9-11 for Satan’s 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to tempt our Lord Jesus.
    - a. According to one scholar, this could have been a height of as much as a 450 feet.<sup>1</sup>
    - b. Here Satan twisted Scripture— Ps 91— in order to tempt Jesus to sin.
      - 1) Is it really a valid interpretation that God promises to protect us no matter what rash, foolish, or dangerous act we perform?
      - 2) David in Ps 19:13 prayed to God, “**Keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins.**”
    - c. For Jesus to have thrown Himself off the pinnacle of the temple, would have been the height of presumption. That is why Jesus answered in Lu 4:12 “**It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’**” Here, Jesus quoted from Deut 6:16.
- C. In all 3 temptations, Jesus used Scripture to resist the devil’s temptations. You must do the same.
1. That includes resisting the misuse of Scripture when it is pulled out of context or misapplied. You will face men, women, & young people who will twist Scripture.
  2. Peter cited Paul’s letters as holy Scripture when he wrote, “**Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught & unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction” (2 Pet 3:15-16).**

Review, further application, & conclusion:

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<sup>1</sup> Hendrickson, William. The New Testament Commentary: Luke., p 237