

# WITH JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

Lent: Journey to the Cross #2

March 13, 2022

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the desert  
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.  
Luke 4:1-2*

## Continuing on the journey

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup> 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.*

<sup>3</sup> *The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"*

<sup>5</sup> *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> So if you worship me, it will all be yours."*

<sup>8</sup> *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

<sup>9</sup> *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. <sup>10</sup> For it is written:*

*" He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you carefully;*

*<sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

<sup>12</sup> *Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

<sup>13</sup> *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*

Luke 4:1-13

1. The Spirit leads into and through the desert
2. Fasting may be more important than we evangelicals have understood
3. God being tempted is confusing, but what is sure is that Jesus identifies with us who are tempted
4. Why does Jesus keep going back to the opening chapters of Deuteronomy
5. Satan does not show up again until Holy Week, the "opportune season"



## Is satan still at work

Temptation 1: Discerning wants and even needs from what's *really* important

<sup>3</sup> *The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"*

Luke 4:3-4 (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4 has the end of the verse!)

What might distract me from God's voice: \_\_\_\_\_

Temptation 2: Bypassing the cross (or why the *shema*' still matters)

<sup>5</sup> *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.*

<sup>6</sup> *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. <sup>7</sup> So if you worship me, it will all be yours."*

<sup>8</sup> *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

Luke 4:5-8 (quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13)

When have I been tempted to shortcut God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

Temptation 3: Using Scripture to get attention rather than edify my brother who is in trouble

<sup>9</sup> *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. <sup>10</sup> For it is written:*

*" 'He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you carefully;*

<sup>11</sup> *they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

<sup>12</sup> *Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Luke 4:9-12 (quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16, see Psalm 91 for the devil's quote)

How can I bless a sister or brother who is in the wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_

# Resources for our Lenten journey 2022

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/104.htm>

Martin Luther has an interesting commentary at <https://www.monergism.com/fast-and-temptation-christ-matthew-41-11>

John Piper has a wonderful introduction to the temptation themes and the work of the Spirit at <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/christ-in-combat-defense-by-the-spirit>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a four part series on Luke's temptation text at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>. The first of these messages is attached below, but I'm not sure about Deffinbaugh's difficulty with whether Jesus could be truly tempted.

I appreciate J.C. Ryle's commentary on Luke at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/113.htm>

Spurgeon's notes on this text focus on the prayer side of Jesus' baptism at <https://ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons56/sermons56.i.html>

The CRC has an extensive collection of liturgy for baptism at <https://www.crcna.org/resources/church-resources/liturgical-forms/baptism-children>

