

## Luke Chapter 4

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V: 1 Just after being baptized the Holy Spirit had descended upon Jesus, now Jesus is “full of the Holy Spirit” and returning from the Jordan River He is being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Probably the Judean wilderness just West of the Dead Sea.

- Jesus’ life and ministry is intertwined with the Holy Spirit.
- Luke presents the humanity of Jesus, while He was fully God – He was at the same time fully man, he set aside not His deity, but His power to be like us – to set an example for us to follow in that in a sense Jesus was just a man – able to live a sinless faith filled life being empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Deity clocked in humanity.

**Philippians 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup>But make Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup>and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit. (Baptized in Holy Spirit / public ministry)

- To be tempted / tested by the Devil. **Why?**
  1. For our sakes & benefit, to show us that God can’t be tempted. **Who He is.**

**James 1:13** “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man:”

2. To relate to us.

**Hebrews 4:15** “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

Paul would later write:

**Romans 15:18** “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.”

3. It was the Father’s will. Jesus was led by the Spirit.

**John 4:34** “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

**John 6:38** “For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.”

- Sometimes the Spirit leads us to hard places – but always to accomplish something good.

V: 2 Jesus was out there for 40 days – a time of fasting, after which naturally He was hungry – because He was fully man, men get hungry.

V: 3 1<sup>st</sup> temptation: Often this is when Satan makes his approach in our lives, when we're tired and hungry.

- It is not so much “if” but “since” you are the Son of God – showing contempt.
- Command – show me a sign, a wonder, a trick. **Matthew 12:39**

**Matthew 12:39** “But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it but the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

- When Jesus was to be judged by Herod; he wanted essentially to see a miracle, but more like a trick – he wanted to be entertained – and Jesus wouldn't even talk to him.
- Bread, hunger, physical need = Lust of the flesh – Eve.

**1 John 2:15-17** <sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- Satan is suggesting: use your spiritual powers to feed your physical needs. Let the Spirit serve the flesh, let the Spirit be in subjection to the flesh. Subordinate the Spiritual to the fleshly.
- The Bible teaches us that the life of the Spirit, and in the Spirit is what is important, more important than the life of / in the flesh.

Jesus tells us:

**Matthew 6:31-32a** <sup>31</sup>Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed” <sup>32</sup>For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:....”

- That is what the world does, the mind of the flesh. Jesus wants us to have the mind of the Spirit.

**Matthew 6:32b-33** <sup>32</sup>... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

V: 4 Jesus responds to this temptation with the word of God, quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3**.

**Deuteronomy 8:3** “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

- *Describing a total dependency upon God’s word.*

**Job 23:12** “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

**Psalms 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.”

**Galatians 5:16** “If ye walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- Allowing God to direct and guide our lives, walking after the Spirit and the things of the Spirit.
- Determining to place our trust in the Word of God and to live after the Spirit.

V: 5-7 Luke records the temptations of Jesus in a slightly different order than in Matthew.

- “see” - “power / glory” – [the lust of the eyes](#).
- Three temptations, the same as with Eve in the garden of Eden. **Genesis 3:6**
  - Lust of the flesh            body.
  - Lust of the eyes            soul.
  - Pride of life                spirit.
- It was / is Satan’s to give, no dispute given.
- God gave dominion of the world to Adam who in turn gave dominion to Satan through his decision to follow him.
- Satan wants to be worshipped.

**Isaiah 14:12-14** <sup>12</sup>“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! <sup>13</sup>For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”

- Satan is speaking to Jesus, a creation speaking to the creator, there is no authority there.

**Romans 9:20-21** <sup>20</sup>Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus? <sup>21</sup>Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?"

**Isaiah 45:9** "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to Him that fashioneth it, what makest thou? Or thy work, He hath no hands?"

- As we place ourselves under God's authority, Satan has no authority over us.

**1 Corinthians 7:22-23** <sup>22</sup>For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. <sup>23</sup>Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

- Satan only has what authority we give him.

**2 Peter 2:19** "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage."

- That is why we are bond servants of Jesus – we are overcome by Him!
- Why did Jesus put up with this? He saw beyond the trial to glory.

**Hebrews 12:2** "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

**Satan's lie:** happiness & fulfillment apart from the cross.

- Ours is a culture of instant gratification. Benefits w/o work or sacrifice. The fast food industry is built on it, so is the lottery.
  1. Bench press 500 pounds? Willing to work out every day?
  2. Quote any scripture at will? Willing to study the Bible 3-4 hours a day?
  3. Play the guitar? Willing to practice and practice?

V: 8 *"Get thee behind Me" / "Get thee hence..."* Matthew

- Same as the rebuke of Peter / Satan in **Matthew 16:23**, same topic / tactic – don't go to the cross.

**Matthew 16:21-23** <sup>21</sup>From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and of the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. <sup>22</sup>Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him,

saying, be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. <sup>23</sup>But he turned, and said unto Peter, get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”

- Satan, through Peter – sought to have Jesus avoid the cross, which is what Satan is suggesting here as well.

Jesus responds: *“For it is written...”*

- Quoting **Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20**.
- It’s not the mere quotation of the scriptures that drives Satan away, it’s the willingness to obey and do it!
- Jesus fought this battle with the “Sword of the Spirit”.

**Ephesians 6:11-18** <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup>wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

V: 9 Brought Him to Jerusalem to the pinnacle of the Temple, and to the pinnacle of power, the best place for Jesus to showcase His power and deity.

The pride of life.

- Satan is suggesting that Jesus reveal Himself as the Son of God at the Temple of God – thus circumventing the need for the cross.
- If there was no suffering or death on the cross then there would be no resurrection!

V: 10-11 Satan misquotes & takes away from the scripture.

**Psalm 91:11-12** <sup>11</sup>For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. <sup>12</sup>They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

- He leaves “to keep thee in all thy ways” out of **Psalm 91:11-12**. - Compare -

- So you have faith in the Word? Prove it! Do something spectacular!

**1 John 2:15-17** <sup>15</sup>“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- The enemy’s tactics have not changed from the beginning:

**Genesis 3:1-6** <sup>1</sup>“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, **hath God said**, *(questioning the word)* ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? *(Misquoting the word of God, making God to be unreasonable)* <sup>2</sup>And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup>But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. *(Eve, mis-quoting / adding to the word of God)* <sup>4</sup>And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: *(contradicting the word of God)* <sup>5</sup>**For God doth know** that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” *(Blaspheming God’s character and intentions)*

<sup>6</sup>And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, *(lust of the flesh)* and that it was pleasant to the eyes, *(lust of the eyes)* and a tree to be desired to make one wise, *(pride of life)* she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

#### Tactics of the enemy:

1. Questioning the Word of God.
2. Mis-quoting the Word of God.
3. Contradicting the Word of God.
4. Blaspheming God.

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V: 12 Jesus responds again; “... *it is said...*” / ... “*it is written*” – quoting

**Deuteronomy 6:16** “Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God...”

**Psalms 119:165** “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them / cause them to stumble.”

**Acts 17:11** “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

**1 Corinthians 2:12-13** <sup>12</sup>“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. <sup>13</sup>Which things also we speak, not in the words

which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual thing with spiritual."

- Comparing scripture with scripture, the whole counsel, looking at in context, a consistent message.
- There are many people who have built doctrines upon portions of scripture.
- If you take a scripture out of its context, you can give it an entirely different meaning.

**Acts 20:27-28** <sup>27</sup>For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood."

**2 Timothy 2:15** "Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

V: 13 Matthew's Gospel states that Jesus dismissed Satan, sent him away.

**James 4:7** "... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The Word of God is our sure defense.

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Summary / Choice:

*Responding to the issues of life either in the Spirit or in the flesh.*

**Galatians 5:16** "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

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- There is a one year gap between verse 13 & 14. Jesus first ministered in Judea. John 2-3

V: 14-15 Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit. Still walking in the spirit, having successfully denied the lust of the flesh – victorious over sin once again.

**Psalms 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

- Still the spotless lamb, still without sin.
- Man was created innocent, without the knowledge of sin – but not righteous.
- Righteousness is the ability to maintain innocence in the face of or in the presence of temptation.

**Hebrews 4:15** “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

**1 John 2:1** “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

- Jesus’ reputation began to spread as He engaged in His public ministry, particularly as He taught in the synagogues.
- Jesus made it a point to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath, a good example to follow.

**Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.”

- Do you think that the rabbis taught Jesus anything? Probably not, but He went anyway.

**Hebrews 2:12** “I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”

- Josephus records that there were 204 cities in the Galilee region with a population of 20,000 people or more – that means there were approximately 3 million people in that area.

V: 16 Jesus walks into His hometown synagogue – as was His custom He stood to read.

Typical Jewish synagogue service:

1. Invocation for God’s blessing.
2. Recite the traditional Hebrew confession of faith.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5** “<sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: <sup>5</sup>And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might...”

- Jesus is not shy when it comes to the Word of God – as Paul said:

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

V: 17 They handed Him the Isaiah scroll – when Jesus began to read it wasn’t just Bible roulette as some Christians do – the Jews had / have a scheduled reading through the Law and the prophets – specific passages on specific days.



V: 18-20 Jesus is reading, but it is describing a present reality – the Spirit had led Jesus to the wilderness, had sustained Him there and strengthened Him through temptation, He's walking in the Spirit – and now He's teaching through the Spirit.

- How difficult it is to try to teach without the Spirit, the teaching can be so dry and lifeless, it can be laborious – oh but in the Spirit there is life and the word truly comes alive!

V: 18 The poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind, bruised / beat up – that is the church today!

V: 19 The acceptable year of the Lord refers to the year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25) the year when everything is set right, everyone is released, property is returned.

- As Jesus reads, He stops short – He didn't complete the passage.
- Jesus is reading from **Isaiah 61:1-2**

**Isaiah 61:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”

- Jesus sat down and everyone's eyes were on Him.
- The custom then was that the teacher sat down and the students stood. When Jesus sits down that is an indication that He is now ready to teach – and with everyone's eyes on Him, He has their attention.
- Another reason why they were looking at Him was that He didn't seemingly finish the passage, leaving the last part about vengeance off.

V: 21-22 As Jesus announces that “this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” – He is telling them that He is the Messiah.

- Jesus is saying that He is the fulfillment of this Messianic prophesy.

**Hebrews 10:7** “Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”

- At the same time they are all blown away at the gracious teaching.
- All they've known is the Law of Moses – now they are hearing about God's grace.

**John 1:17** “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

- Is this not Joseph’s son – isn’t this that same kid...

V: 23-30 Jesus’ reputation was growing, the people in Nazareth had heard about the miracles in Capernaum – and wanted to see the same things.

- Sometimes familiarity breeds contempt – sometimes it goes that way for a prophet in his home town.
- Jesus predicts that they will demand a sign or miracle.
- The Jews were and still are very nationalistic, very patriotic – as Jesus uses two illustrations that reveal how the prophets / God when they rejected by their own people, the Jews how God then worked through the Zidonian widow, and the Assyrian general their pride is pricked.
- There is just outside of Nazareth a very steep cliff call “the precipice” – the people at this point wanted to kill Jesus – a foretaste of things to come.

Pictures:

- They took Him up to this place with the intent of throwing Him off the cliff to His death, but he eluded their attempt and heads off to Capernaum.

Augustine: “*People love the truth when it enlightens them, but hate the truth when it accuses them.*”

V: 31-32 Jesus goes down to Capernaum, which was His Galilee CP / [map](#).

- Jesus is teaching on the Sabbath day, meaning in the synagogue – and they are astonished – there was power in His word.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- Remembering also that <sup>1</sup>Jesus is full of the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, <sup>14</sup>He’s walking in the power of the Spirit, and <sup>18</sup>the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him.
- Jesus spoke with authority; He didn’t hide behind other rabbi’s or scholars which was the common practice of the day – “*you have heard it said, but I say unto you...*”
- Jesus is our example, and we have access to that same power, to walk and move in the power of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus did.

John the Baptist testified:

**Luke 3:16** “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.”

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

“... *His word was with power.*”

The chief priests and Pharisees had ordered Jesus to be arrested:

**John 7:45-46** “<sup>45</sup>Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, why have ye not brought Him? <sup>46</sup>The officers answered, never man spake like this man.”

V: 34-37 Sadly we see just as many unclean spirits in the church today as we do out of it.

- On this occasion Jesus encounters a demon possessed man – who cried out when he saw Jesus. Light reveals darkness, it repels darkness, there is always a violent confrontation – and light always wins.
- *“Let us alone”* – get away from me! Leave me alone! – That is the cry of hell, let us alone, I don’t want to hear it, let us alone.
- This unclean spirit recognized Jesus and is silenced and rebuked.
- In that day there were exorcists, just as there are today. They had their incantations, their rituals, and all the things they went through – Jesus just said the word – He had the authority to say it – and it happened.

**Hebrews 1:3** “Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power.”

- His fame, His reputation grew.

V: 38-39 Advocates of a celibate priesthood find little comfort in this verse because Peter was married.

- When we take the word of God from the church to our home, healing takes place.
- They prayed, God heard and Simon’s mother in law was healed, and she ministered.

*“They asked”*

**James 4:2** “... ye have not, because ye ask not...”

V: 40-41 As darkness was approaching: the Sabbath ended and people were allowed to move freely. Many came to be healed or to have demons driven out – which He did.

- He didn't allow the ungodly to speak the praises of God:

**James 2:19** “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

V: 42-44 As He's leaving, they are begging Him to stay.

- Jesus responds that He needs to share the good news with the others as well.
- So He goes out and preaches, and teaches, and heals in the various cities and synagogues of Galilee.