

The Temptation of Jesus

Luke 4:1-15

INTRODUCTION:

This morning I would to review the scriptures in Luke 4:1-15, and Matthew 4:1-11 which deal with the temptation of Jesus by the Devil.

From this faith lesson we will see the real life experiences and trials that Jesus faced when he was tempted of the Devil.

- The reason why this is put in the scriptures is not only to show how perfect Jesus is, and how sinless He is. But I believe this is Jesus explaining to us just how subtle the Devil (Satan) is when he confronts you in your life.
 - Jesus did not have to prove anything to anyone, let alone the devil.
1. The devil does not show up in our lives and let know how he is going to tempt us but you can be sure that he will use his many ways to test us.
 2. The devil is far more wise and subtle to let you actually know how he is going to ensnare you and entrap you.
 3. The devil is the master of all disguises and so you will get caught off guard if you don't know how to watch, and be ready.

In the gospels we are told of how the devil tempted Jesus, and what things he used to try and get Jesus to follow after him.

He was trying to offer the very best that the world had to offer.

1. He used the physical weakness of the flesh. (Jesus was hungry).
 2. He used Riches.
 3. He even appealed to a persons pride.
- The following scriptures outline only the 3 temptations that Jesus faced, yet there were many more in the 40 days of the temptations that Jesus was facing. But we are only told of the three things.

Luke 4 King James Version (KJV)

1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and **was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,**

- Notice it is the Spirit of God which takes Jesus into the wilderness.
- This was going to be a test, to show that Jesus was greater than the devil.
- Jesus was not in the wilderness by the actions of the devil. Jesus was there because he wanted to show how that the devil would be defeated, and in turn show to us, how that "we can defeat the devil also".

² Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

- Jesus was tempted for every one of those 40 days in the wilderness, he was not there for 40 days and only tempted 3 times.
- No.....he was tempted for the whole of the 40 days.
- And to show that the spirit was greater than the flesh he ate nothing during those 40 days of being tempted.

³ And the devil said unto him, if thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

- Here we find that the devil is appealing to the weakness of the flesh of a man.
- Normally when a person suffers in the flesh he will do anything to stop that suffering.
 - a) For instances when you are hungry and have no means to feed yourself or buy food because you have no money you will resort to stealing so that you can get money to buy food, or clothing whatever it may be to satisfy the needs of the flesh.
 - b) People who are drug addicts will resort to stealing or other crimes just so that they can fulfil their extreme desire of the flesh.
 - c) And hunger is one of the strongest desires to conquer. You will do almost anything to overcome hunger.
- So here in the scriptures, the devil is tempting Jesus that if he is the Son of God to turn the stones into bread.
- But the thoughts of Jesus was unlike that of the devil. Jesus was thinking in the spiritual realm.

⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

- Living is only one of the aspects of life. Dying was the other. Jesus emphasised that to live without God was worse than just going without the physical bread to live.
- In other words man cannot “live” if he does not have God.

⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

1. This is a good example of what the devil has at his disposal.
2. The devil has the whole world at his finger tips.
3. The devil is in control of all the worldly kingdoms where God is not in it.
4. By the mere fact that Jesus allowed the devil to show unto him all the kingdoms of the world, and that in a moment of time speaks great volumes to the power and availability of the things available on offer from the devil.

1. It is therefore no surprise.....that the devil can put on offer to the world the worldly things under his control.
2. It goes without saying how the devil has offered to those under his influence the riches of this world, when they have sold “their souls to the devil”.
3. It goes without saying how “Hollywood” has filled its legions with the souls offered to the devil, in the music and entertainment industry.
4. It goes without saying, how those industries are filled with “blasphemy” of Jesus Christ.
5. It goes without saying how those industries are controlled by the puppets of the devil.
6. It goes without saying that these industries are against the Lord and His Christ.
7. It goes with saying that these organisations of whom many are controlled by the Jewish satanic unbelieving worshippers of the Talmud.

Look what the devil told Jesus.....in verse 6.

⁶ And the devil said unto him, **All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me;** and **to whomsoever I will I give it.**

⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

- ✓ Why do you think many of those that are in the music industry or acting industry are so successful. Well it's most likely because the “devil made it happen”.
- ✓ It is the “devil” that can give them the power in that industry.
- ✓ It is the “devil” who has given it to “whomsoever I will give it”.....is that not what he said to Jesus.
- ✓ Did he not say to Jesus.....if you worship me I will give you the power.....

⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan:** for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

- ✓ The devil is Satan. Jesus recognised that right from the beginning.
- ✓ Get thee behind me Satan was his reply to the devil.
- ✓ This reply from Jesus comes to those who try and overthrow the Lords deity.
- ✓ This was not the only time Jesus commanded Satan to get behind him.

In the book of Matthew 16.....we see the same rebuke used.

Matthew 16:13-27 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

¹⁵ He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

²¹ 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 chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

²³ 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.

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (*works relates to the unbeliever*)

Back to Luke 4..... Verse 9

What else did the devil try and do.....well...

⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, **If thou be the Son of God**, cast thyself down from hence:

- ✓ Here the devil was appealing to the pride of a person. But Jesus knew what the devil was up to.
- ✓ Jesus knew he was and still is the Son of God, and he did not have to prove anything to the devil.
- ✚ But Satans appeal to a normal persons pride could trigger them to do things that they won't normally do.
- ✚ For instance....if there is "peer pressure" amongst a group of people some individuals try and show off to get accepted by others into a groupie in fear of being rejected.
- ✚ So often younger people will take dangerous risks to try and prove themselves to others to get accepted.

10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

✓ **If you thought that the devil does not know scripture think about this.**

1. When the devil answered Jesus, he did not answer in his own words, but used scripture to back up his argument?
2. The problem was, and like so many TV and prosperity preachers and evangelists they misquote what they think you should hear.
3. In this instance that was the case.
4. If you read the scriptures from where these 2 verses Luke 4:10&11 come from it is entirely misquoted.
5. But what the devil was hoping for and like so many preachers hope for, is that you won't go and check.

These verses in Luke 4:10-11 come from Psalm 91:1-16

1. It is describing how the psalmist sees God as his deliverer for salvation in the shadow of the almighty.
2. It's not saying that God will physically protect you when you do something stupid.

Psalm 91 King James Version (KJV)

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

- ✓ The snare of the fowler is actually speaking about how God saved him spiritually, just as a person will save a little bird caught in a trap or snare.
- ✓ Its ironic how the devil uses a verse that speaks against him, to then take it and turn it into his favour.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

1. The truth of Gods words is the saving grace. It is this truth that saves.
2. The picture of verse 4, is about how a parent bird will take care of its own young, by covering them up with their own wings and feathers.
3. When you residing under the "shadow" of the almighty, the shadow reminds every one around that your protector is very close if you can see his shadow.
4. That's how close God is as a protector of His people.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

- ✓ The LORD speaks from verse 5 to the end of the chapter verse 16.

⁶ Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. ⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

¹¹ **For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.**

¹² **They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.**

- ✓ These are the 2 verses the devil took out of context.
- ✓ What they are actually saying is that God is your protector in salvation if you are under his shadow, having believed in the Lord Himself.

¹³ Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. ¹⁴ Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

¹⁵ **He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.**

- ✓ This verse 15 is the sole purpose of this Psalm 91. It is to show Gods protection when you call upon his name for salvation.

¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.**

- ✓ Salvation is Gods purpose.

BUT LETS CONTINUE IN LUKE 4:12 WITH THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS.

¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, **Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

- ✓ Jesus answered the devil with scripture also.
- ✓ Because it is written, **Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**
- ✓ When the devil heard the reply, he knew he was defeated by the word of God.
- ✓ The word of God is what causes the devil to flee.

¹³ And when **the devil had ended all the temptation,** he departed from him for a season.

- ✓ Although we see the devil leaving he will be back.
- ✓ The bible said, he departed from him for a season.
- ✓ This is exactly what the devil does.

- ✓ The devil will always come back on another day or time, to sift and try you again just like he did to the Lord.
- ✓ The devil will always appeal to the three avenues of sin.

1 John 2:16

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.

1. The lust of the flesh.
2. Lust of the eyes.
3. The pride of life.

¹⁴ And **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit** into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

- ✓ Just as Jesus returned into Galilee in the power of the Spirit, so should we use that same example when we are tempted.
 - ✓ Jesus after all told us that when he ascends to His Father he would not leave us comfortless, but that he would send a helper and a comforter, who will be able to guide us into all truths.
 - ✓ That he would also help us to be a discerner of the truth, and would teach us all things illuminating the scriptures for us to see for ourselves, so that we would not be misguided by the world or its heretical preachers.
- ❖ Jesus was able to defeat the devils temptations, and by doing so he has been our example and guide and teacher.

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.**

Hebrews 2:14-18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For in that he **himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour (HELP) them that are tempted.**

How to Defeat the Devil – Be Prepared

Ephesians 6:10-18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- Jesus is our great example.
- Jesus is our Salvation.

PRAYER.....CLOSE