

# Luke 4

## Luke 4.1-13

**V1 – What was Jesus doing at the Jordan?** Being baptized

-He was then led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit

**V2 – How long was he in the wilderness?** 40 days

-**Why did Jesus have to be tempted?** To know what it was like – **Read Heb. 2.17-18**

**V3 – The first temptation?** To turn stone into bread

-**Could Jesus have done that?** Of course

-**Why did he not do it?** It would have been for the wrong motive

-**The lesson:** The ends do not justify the means

-We can do something good, but with the wrong motive

**V4 – Jesus quoted from *Deut. 8.3***

-These are the first words of Jesus in his public ministry

-Notice that Jesus met every temptation by quoting Scripture – That is a very important lesson for us

-Jesus did not deny the value of bread, but overcoming Satan was of greater value

-We are to rely on God for our bread, not because of a challenge from Satan

-Some severe diets of our day rule out the eating of bread, but this passage tells us that God created bread to sustain us – there will always be value to bread

**V5 – What was shown to Jesus?** All the world

**V6 – What offer did Satan make to Jesus?** To give him all the earth

-**Was it Satan's to give?** In a sense – See John 18.36

**V7 – What did Jesus have to do?** Worship Satan

-In other words, transfer his allegiance from his father to Satan

**V8 - How did Jesus respond?** By quoting *Deut. 6.13*

-Only God was to be worshipped

**V9 – The third temptation?** To cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple

**V10-11 – Notice that Satan quoted Scripture!**

-Very interesting – **Which Scripture did he quote?** *Psalm 91.11-12*

-**But what was wrong?** He left out part of it

-**The significance?** He can still quote Scripture today, but misquote it or not include all of the statement (frequently done by denominational preachers)

**V12 – How did Jesus reply?** By quoting more Scripture

-It is wrong to test (or tempt) God

-**Great lessons here:**

1. Evil people can quote Scripture

2. One Scripture should be used to interpret another Scripture
3. We should not take Scriptures in isolation and try to prove something

**V 13** – Jesus was successful in the temptation

- Read Heb. 4.15** – Jesus was given all the temptations that we face in our lives
- Read James 4.7** – If we resist Satan, he will flee from us
- Jesus acknowledged the absolute authority of the word of God – whatever was written was final
- Jesus did not argue with the devil, but told him what the word of God said

## **Luke 4.14-30**

**V 14-15** – He returned to Galilee

- The actual public ministry of Jesus began there

**V 16** – **Where in Galilee did he start?** Nazareth

- Note what Luke said: "...where he had been brought up"
- What is that important?** Because he was born in Bethlehem
- The Pharisees liked to say, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" – But Jesus did come out of Nazareth, he came out of Bethlehem
- Notice: "*according to his custom*" – Jesus believed in faithful attendance!
- Could people say this about us today?**
- He "*stood up to read*" – That was the custom in the First Century – to stand while reading the Bible and to sit down to teach and preach

**V 17** – Jesus probably had asked for the *Isaiah* scroll

- No fumbling trying to find the passage – He knew where the passage was
- Goals of the Messiah (*Isaiah 61.1-2*):**
  1. To preach to the poor (without money) and the poor in spirit
  2. To proclaim release to the captives
  3. To give sight to the blind
  4. To free the oppressed
  5. To proclaim the Year of Jubilee
- There is no evidence that the Jews of the Old Testament ever had enough faith to actually celebrate the Year of Jubilee (the 50<sup>th</sup> year)
- So it seems that the Year of Jubilee was looking forward to the coming of the kingdom of God (the New Testament church) – We are living in the "Year of Jubilee" today

**V 20** – How dramatic – **Reread v 20**

- Luke is very vivid as a writer – all eyes were riveted on Jesus

**V 21** – **What were his opening words?**

- It is hard to read this verse without getting goose-bumps and chills and even tears – what an exciting passage!

**V 22** – **What was their initial reaction?** They were speaking well of him

- But:** they began to doubt almost immediately
- "Isn't this Joseph's son?"** A possible reference to *Isaiah 7.14*
- The Jews understood *Isaiah 61*, but didn't believe

**V 23** – **What were they asking for?** Signs, tricks, miracles, such as Jesus did in Capernaum  
-Capernaum – the healing of the nobleman's son (*John 4.46-54*)

**V 24** – **The reply of Jesus?** No prophet is honored in his home town  
-Everything else being equal, we don't highly respect someone we grew up with or know well

**V 25-26** – **Examples of this principle?** Elijah  
-During the drought, Elijah was assisted by the widow of Zarephath (in Sidon or Phoenicia)  
-The flour and the oil never ceased for this widow who took in Elijah, but his own people tried to kill him

**V 27** – Also there were many lepers in the Northern Kingdom, but Naaman was the only one to ask Elisha to heal him  
-**Where was Naaman from?** Syria  
-**The point?** The Jews didn't think enough of their own prophets to feed them or ask them for help

**V 28** – **Why were the Jews mad?** The comments of Jesus were directed toward them (the typical reaction of the Jews in the First Century)

**V 29-30** – They tried to kill him, but he walked out through their midst  
-**Why didn't Jesus do a miracle there?** They still would have had some excuse for not believing  
-Notice his composure, versus their disorder

## **Luke 4.31-37**

**V 31** – He "*went down*" (in elevation)  
-Capernaum was the main residence of Jesus during his three-year ministry  
-It was also the home of Peter, James, John, Andrew, and possibly Matthew

**V 32** – **The reaction of the Jews at Capernaum?** Amazed  
-**Why?** He spoke with authority – a rather common statement (*Matt. 7.29*)

**V 33** – The man possessed with a demon

**V 34** - Note the details supplied by Dr. Luke – not a case of insanity, but of demon possession  
-All could see the evidence  
-Notice also that the demon knew Christ was from God – **Read James 2.19**

**V 35-36** – The people were astounded at the authority of Jesus

**V 37** – **The result?** His fame spread

## **Luke 4.38-39**

**V 38** – *Matt. 8.14* – "*with a fever*"  
-*Mark 1.29* – "*sick with a fever*"

-But notice what Dr. Luke said: "*suffering from a high fever*" (the doctor's mind at work)

**V 39** – Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law

-**The significance of this passage?** Peter was married (we need to point that out to our Catholic friends)

**Luke 4.40-44** (various other events)

**V 40** – The healing of the sick – the Jewish day ended at sunset (they could "work" then and move sick people)

**V 41** – *James 2.19* – The demons believe and shudder

**V 42** – People were begging Jesus to stay

-A pitiful verse – so different from Nazareth

**V 43** – Jesus had to preach to other cities

**V 44** – He was preaching in synagogues – the best places for the teaching of Jesus

-**Why?** The church would begin at Jerusalem with the Jews

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