

It Is Written; Luke 4:1-4

I. Temptation

- A. It is a daily part of all of our lives
- B. Every day the Tempter pursues us trying to entice us to behavior that is contrary to God's word
- C. The meaning of the word in verse 2 — examination with the purpose of finding fault or rejection; to entice to improper behavior
- D. In the first temptation the first Adam failed
- E. In the second temptation the last Adam passed
- F. 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (ESV); ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- G. Comparison before content

II. Differences

- A. Adam's temptation happened in a beautiful paradise
- B. Jesus' temptation happened in the wilderness
- C. Adam faced his temptation with a companion
- D. Jesus faced his alone
 - 1. He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit
 - 2. Angels ministered to him when it was over
 - 3. We are left with the understanding that He did this solo
 - 4. "Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, once said that loneliness is perhaps the most difficult of all human situations to endure for any length of time. It is understood that the supreme form of punishment, greater even than incarceration, is solitary confinement; to be forced to be utterly alone, totally cut off from any kind of human communication and fellowship. When Jesus Christ faced all of the forces of hell in an attempt to undermine his integrity, he was there alone."¹
- E. Adam's test was on a full stomach
- F. Jesus was without food for forty days

III. Similarities

- A. What is the focal point of the temptation?
- B. Genesis 3:1 (ESV); Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
 - 1. Satan takes the one restriction God gave and makes it a restriction against all food
 - 2. The idea here is that if there is even one restriction then we are not truly free and we are not allowed to do what we want
 - 3. Eve quickly corrects Satan — and then Satan launches his complete attack on the very word of God
 - 4. Genesis 3:4 (ESV); But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
 - 5. "God had said one thing: 'If you eat you will die.' Satan comes along and says, 'If you eat you will not die.' Who is telling the truth? God, who is of the very essence of truth? Or Satan, the deceiver?"²

¹ R. C. Sproul, *A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke* (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1999), 62.

² *Ibid*, 64.

IV. It Is Written

A. Satan begins Jesus' temptation with "if you are the son of God"

1. Satan's words were a subtle contradiction to the last words that Jesus heard from His Father (Just like Eve's temptation)
2. Luke 3:21–22 (ESV); ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
3. Remember, Jesus has been in isolation and without food for forty days — weak, alone, susceptible — Jesus' identity is not under attack, but the trustworthiness of God's word
4. But Jesus trusts, has faith, believes God
 - a) Matthew 4:4 (ESV); But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "
 - b) Jesus did not need bread as much as He needed God's word
 - c) God's promise is what keeps Him going — Jesus says I trust God's word, I'm going to live by God's word, it is more important than bread

B. Luke 4:5–7 (ESV); ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

1. I think this is the most subtle temptation and to really understand it we have to move ahead to the garden of Gethsemane
2. Matthew 26:36–44
3. Three times Jesus asks God for another way to complete the promise of Genesis 12:3
4. I think this is what Satan is tempting Jesus with in Luke 4
5. He is saying to Jesus, "You don't have to go through with all this suffering and pain, I will give you all these people right now... I can circumvent God's promise... just bow your knee to me!"
6. What a temptation! — and a direct attack on the faithfulness of God's word!
7. Luke 4:8 (ESV); And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "

C. Luke 4:9–11 (ESV); ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' ¹¹ and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

1. Again, Satan takes God's word and subtly twists it to his own use
2. Every attack Satan uses on Jesus is an attack on the very words God has given Him (and us)
3. The question is, are we going to believe the Father of Lies, or the Father?

V. An Opportune Time

A. Luke 4:13 (ESV); And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

B. Here is the most significant difference in Adam and Jesus — Jesus believed God's word, He trusted, He had faith!

C. While Adam (Eve) chose to believe Satan, Jesus chose to believe God

D. What happens when we are put to the test?

1. More often than not we follow in the footsteps of Adam, not Jesus
2. One of the greatest crises of the church today is believe in God's word
 - a) Did Moses really write Genesis, or was it three different authors?
 - b) Was Jonah really swallowed by a great fish?
 - c) Is Jesus really the Son of God or just a prophet and a good man?
 - d) Can Jesus' blood really save us?

3. Jesus put His trust, faith, belief in the Father as an example for us — and He was victorious!
 4. We must not follow in the steps of the first Adam, but in the steps of the last Adam
- E. 1 Peter 2:21 (ESV); For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.