

# Study of Luke Ch. 4

*It's tempting, but no thanks!*

## **Opening**

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

What food is the hardest for you to resist eating? What do you enjoy about it?

If you could have a magic fairy do one thing for you for the rest of your life, what would it be?

## **Study**

Luke 4 gives us an insight into what Jesus was doing before He started His ministry. We don't see much about Jesus' life before His ministry but this account gives us a glimpse of what He has endured and will continue to endure as a man.

All of us experience temptation. It is something that we will always deal with in life. It is something that Jesus also endured in His life. Free will gives us the choice to choose between loving God in obedience or loving something else by seeking immediate fulfillment. Jesus had the same choices to deal with growing up. If Jesus was 100% God, was He really tempted?

Before we get started, we should define temptation. How would you define temptation if you were explaining it to a friend who did not know Jesus?

In short, temptation is a challenge to our integrity. Integrity is the will and commitment to do what is right in God's eyes whether someone is watching or not, or we can get away with it or not. We'll see that Jesus had the same challenges. Let's look at Jesus' temptations.

Read [Luke 4:1-12](#).

How many days did Jesus spend in the desert? Where else in the Bible do we see this number at play?

This number typically reminds us of the purification and shaping of a person or people. In this case, Jesus' purification and resolve to the mission are being strengthened. Let's explore Jesus' temptations.

What does the devil ask Jesus to do in this first temptation (v.1-3)? What is being challenged in Jesus?

What part of Jesus is Satan pulling at? What weakness is Satan using against Jesus?

Why would changing a stone into bread be as sin for Jesus in this case?

How are we tempted when it comes to our identity?

How does Satan tempt Jesus a second time (v. 5-8)?

This temptation may seem weak on the surface. After all, why would Jesus worship Satan? What is Satan challenging Jesus with?

Where is the lie in Satan's offer?

How are we tempted to take the easy way?

How does Satan tempt Jesus the third time (v.9-12)?

If Jesus had fallen for this temptation, what do you think the Father would have done?

How are we tempted to test God?

Some people will point out that Jesus was not tempted to do any of these things because He is God. If that was the case, why would Satan waste his time? Jesus is 100% God but He is also 100% man. This thought disregards Jesus' human nature. It also forgets what temptation really is. Remember that temptation is a challenge to integrity. What will you do? What do you truly believe about your relationship with God? We are required to give an answer when we are tempted. Jesus gave His answer on our behalf where we could not.

### **Mark of a Disciple: Live by Faith**

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray "and lead us not into temptation". What does this mean? Why do we pray this?

We hear in scripture that God does not tempt us, but He does test us. What is the difference between being tested and being tempted?

Sometimes people treat this account with Jesus as a formula to face temptation. All we have to do is say what Jesus did and quote scripture. This is not meant to be a formula for us. It shows us that Jesus experienced temptation just as you and I do. We do have one who is able to relate to our struggles.

So, how do we face temptation? We resist temptation by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is only by His power that we can. In prayer, we turn to God for the strength to resist. We also spend time with our savior. By spending time in prayer and God's Word, we begin to learn to hear the lies in what Satan proposes to us in temptation. When we understand that we are being tempted, we quickly run to our savior for help!

### Personal Reflection

In what ways are you preparing yourself to handle temptation in your life? What temptation are you struggling with within your life? Spend time each day asking for God to know when you are being tempted and for the strength to resist.

### **Prayer Time**

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.