

Triumph in the Tests of Temptation

January 26, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

The _____ of Jesus in temptation is more important than you think.

Your _____ in temptation is greater than you think.

Your _____ in temptation is greater than you think.

Luke 4:1-14

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

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." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

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."

¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some common temptations people face today, and how might these compare with the temptations Jesus faced?

Read & Discuss Luke 4:1-14:

1. The temptation of Jesus occurs immediately after His baptism (Luke 3:21-22) and the beginning of His public ministry (3:23). What might be significant about the timing of this? Have you ever experienced temptation before or after spiritual blessing or opportunity? Share with your group. Why might we be more vulnerable to spiritual attack during such times?
2. Though it is the devil who is attempting to provoke Jesus to sin, how is it evident in this passage that God is the one in ultimate control here? Why does being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit still leave us exposed to spiritual temptation?
3. Trying to take advantage of Jesus' hunger (v. 2b), the tempter encourages Jesus to use His power to make bread from stones. What sin is the devil trying to get Jesus to commit? How does John 4:34 help us understand Jesus' thinking? In Luke 4:4, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3. How would you put the meaning of this text into your own words?
4. Jesus later said the devil is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). In verse 5-7, where do you see evidence of the devil lying? How do you discern when Scripture is being misused or misinterpreted?
5. What do you think was the devil's intent in challenging Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple (v. 9)? How might this relate to 1 John 2:16? In light of this passage (Luke 4:1-14), how would you define temptation?
6. Verse 13 tells us that after Jesus resisted the devil, the devil left Jesus "until an opportune time." What does this tell us about the nature of temptation? How can we prepare ourselves for this?
7. According to Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16, in what way does Jesus' temptation equip Him to serve as our high priest? How should this motivate us as we engage in our spiritual battles?

Apply: In light of Jesus' example in this passage, what specific steps will you take to better prepare yourself for times of testing and temptation?

Pray: Pray that by the help of the Holy Spirit we would stand firm against Satan's attacks, being wise to his schemes, strong in our faith, and competent in our use of God's Word.