

# Guided Bible Study

## The First Temptation

Luke 4:1-4

- 1 And Jesus  
being full of the Holy Ghost  
returned from Jordan,  
and was led by the Spirit  
into the wilderness,
- 2 Being forty days tempted of the devil.  
And in those days he did eat nothing:  
and when they were ended,  
he afterward hungered.
- 3 And the devil said unto him,  
"If thou be the Son of God,  
command this stone  
that it be made bread.
- 4 And Jesus answered him, saying,  
"It is written,  
That man shall not live by bread  
alone,  
but by every word of God."

### Key Words

full = (pleres) filled up (as opposed to empty)  
devil = (diabolos) a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer

## Guided Study

(Download and complete Discipleship Studybook Three to acquaint yourself with Bible Study Methods and Principles for Bible Interpretation.)

### verse 1

1. **Underline** the two aspects of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life.
2. What does it mean He was "full of the Holy Ghost"?  
(For more information on what it means to be "filled with the Holy Spirit", study Lesson #3 in Discipleship Study Book 1 and Lesson #1 in Discipleship Study Book 2, both of which can be downloaded from BibleStudyCD.com.)
3. What is significant of Jesus being "led by the Spirit into the wilderness?"
4. How does the Holy Spirit lead us?

### verse 2

1. **Circle** how many days the devil tempted Jesus. Is there anything significant about this number, and if so what?
2. Why do you think Jesus refrained from eating during this period?
3. How does fasting help our spiritual lives?

### verse 3

1. Why does the devil begin his temptation with the phrase "If Thou be the Son of God"?
2. Are you aware of Jesus ever changing one thing into another? If so, what?
3. To what in our human nature does this temptation appeal?
4. What was wrong with giving in to this temptation?
5. How does the devil tempt us in similar ways?
6. How can you recognize his voice the next time he tempts you?

### verse 4

1. What does "It is written" mean? Why is it important?
2. What does Jesus' answer to Satan mean?
3. How does Jesus' response relate to temptations we face?

## Principles & Truths

This passage of Scripture teaches that ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

## Applications:

In light of the Principles & Truths learned, I will ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

# Jesus Tempted by Desire

Luke 4:1-4

(Complete the Guided Study before reading this study to gain your own personal insights into this passage.)

**Make no mistake about it**, we have all been targeted. Targeted by spiritual adversaries whose primary goal it is to entice us to live independent of God and forsake our faith in Him. For if they succeed, God's design for our lives would be compromised and we would have failed the test of Character.

At the start of His public ministry, Jesus came under such an attack, and emerged victorious! As we study His example, we will learn principles that will help us when we find ourselves tempted by Satan.

## 1. Jesus: Led by the Spirit

*"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,"*

The first line of defense against our adversary, the devil, is to be "led by the Spirit". In fact Luke 4:1 tells us that Jesus was not only "led" by the Spirit, but was "full of the Holy Spirit"! The word "full" means to be "*thoroughly permeated*". As Jesus was "led by the Spirit in the desert", He was completely permeated by God's Spirit, Who filled His Mind, His Emotions and His Will! In other words, He was filled with the Holy Spirit!

*(For more information on what it means to be "filled with the Holy Spirit", study Lesson #3 in Discipleship Study Book 1 and Lesson #1 in Discipleship Study Book 2, both of which can be downloaded from BibleStudyCD.com.)*

When you are filled with God's Spirit, you are living in His Reality or Truth. One deception of the Evil One is to cause us to think we are merely physical beings. Nothing is further from the Truth! God's Word reveals that we are spiritual beings living in physical bodies. There is more to life than what meets the eye! Unless we are living by the Spirit, thinking by the Spirit, sensing by the Spirit and being led by the Spirit, we will effectively be blind to what is occurring in the spiritual world around us where Satan and his demons operate! We will be unable to discern the spiritual forces behind many of the things that happen in our world!

Jesus was led by and was full of God's Spirit! And because of this, even in His physically weakened and vulnerable state, He was able to discern the deception of Satan when the first temptation arose. Do you ever wonder that we fall so easily for the devil's deceptions? Is it because we are not even aware when those well laid traps are set in our path? We are walking "blind" because we are walking, not in God's Spirit" but in our physical strength, perceiving only what our carnal minds and senses are able.

Unless we enlighten our minds with the Word of Christ, expand our senses with the Power of the Spirit and strengthen our resolve with the Will of God, we will be effectively walking in darkness, tripping over every obstacle and deception that Satan places in our way! Be filled with and be led by the Holy Spirit of God! This is the essential first step in discerning and defeating the deceptions and temptations that will inevitably come our way!

## 2. Jesus: Tempted by Satan

*"...where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'"*

Luke 4:2-3 reveals the duration and devise of Satan's temptations. We are told that Satan tempted Christ during the "forty days" in which Jesus ate nothing. We are also told that it wasn't until the end of that period, when Jesus was at His hungriest, that Satan came tempting Christ to turn the stones into bread. Satan not only persists in tempting us, but tempts us when we are most vulnerable!

The question is often asked, "How realistic were Christ's temptations especially as compared to those we mere mortals encounter?" In other words, "Was Christ really tempted to sin, or were these temptations simply to show that He couldn't sin?" These are very important questions, especially since Christ is being set forth as our example to follow. What good is an example if it is far beyond what we could hope to achieve?

In response to the question, "Was Jesus really able to sin, or was He really incapable of sinning?", I believe the best answer to that question is "Yes". Both parts are true! How can this be you ask? The confusion occurs when we forget the dual nature of Christ.

Scripture teaches that Christ was both truly God and truly Man (Philippians 2:6-7). As God, He was completely incapable of sinning for God cannot be tempted (James 1:13). But as Man, Jesus entered our world, experiencing our weaknesses and being tempted "in every way just as we are" (Hebrews 4:15) because He was made like us "in every way" (Hebrews 2:17).

Paul, in Romans 8:3, goes even further when he writes that God sent "His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering." Is Paul saying that the body God incarnated was tainted with the sin nature? If so, wouldn't Jesus be a sinner like the rest of us? Let me say here that the great majority of Bible scholars do not believe Paul is saying that Jesus possessed a sin nature. At worst, they say that He possessed a body in the "likeness" of our own, which somehow possessed weaknesses like ours but short of possessing a sin nature like ours.

I can understand the danger of intimating that Jesus possessed a sin nature like ours for there is a taste of heresy in that thought. However, if Christ was not made like us "in every way" as the writer of Hebrews states, then His Word is in error and He really cannot ever be an effective example for us to follow.

In his "Theological Dictionary of the New Testament", Kittel comments on the word "likeness" in Romans 8:3 when he writes, " (Paul) is emphasizing that Christ was really man. He bore a physical body fashioned according to the human body which is infected with sin. In outward form, He was in no way different from other men.... The words (in the likeness of) keep us from a deduction which Paul did not wish to make, namely, that Christ became subject to the power of sin, and did in fact sin. For Paul Christ is sinless. Sin, which clung to the physical body He assumed, had no power over Him." (see Vol V pgs 191-197)

Is it possible for Jesus to assume a body possessing a sin nature like ours but never for one moment ever being overpowered by that sin nature? If so, then He would truly be our example, for though we are not divine ourselves, we possess the Spirit of the Divine, and by that Spirit we are able to follow the example of our Savior who "suffered when He was tempted" and therefore is "able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).

However you interpret Scripture, we can all agree that God calls us to imitate Christ who not only understands our struggle with sin but has shown us how to resist temptation and defeat sin in our lives!

### **3. Jesus: Upheld by The Word**

*"Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone.'"*

The temptation was simple enough. To a hungry person, the round stones of the Judean desert did indeed resemble hot loaves just out of the oven. You could almost smell the fresh baked bread! It seemed logical for Christ to use His God given abilities to satisfy a most basic human need!

But Jesus, led by and filled with the Spirit of God, discerned the real reason behind the temptation ... to declare independence from God His Father and raise His personal needs above all else! But really, what wrong was there in fulfilling His physical needs? Absolutely nothing if this life is all there is and if we are merely physical beings!

But Jesus' response revealed His priorities. God's Word determined His path. It was wrong, because His Father's Will and His Father's Word declared it to be! "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" There is more to life than satisfying our physical appetites. There is a higher calling than our carnal lusts! The Word and Will of God gratifies like nothing else! We can learn how to respond to temptation from Jesus' example. All temptations are deceptions. They promise immediate gratification, but hide their temporalness. Temptations tether our hearts to the here and now while concealing the ever after. It is God's Word that uncovers the deception and exposes the empty promises. It is only God's Word, not our feelings or opinions, that proclaims God's Truth in response to Satan's deceptions!

So how do we respond to temptation? The same way Jesus responded ... by knowing, understanding and declaring the Word of God ... resisting temptation's hollow promises and living within the Truth of God's Eternal Word!

#### **Think!**

- 1. What is significant of the fact that Jesus' temptations came after He "returned from the Jordan?"*
- 2. What is significant about being tempted by the devil for forty days?*
- 3. Why did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the desert to be tempted?*
- 4. What kind of similar temptations (ie. verse 3) do we experience?*
- 5. What does Jesus mean by His response in verse 4?*
- 6. How does Jesus' response in verse 4 relate to us?*

#### **Affirmations**

**(Recite Aloud Daily)**

- 1. I Will Be Filled with God's Spirit In Order That I May Discern Satan's Schemes**
- 2. Because Jesus was Made Like Me In Every Way, I Will Follow Him as My Example All the Way!**
- 3. Unless I Uphold the Word of God, I Will Fall for the Temptations of Satan.**