

Temptation: How Did Jesus Handle It?

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 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.

3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours."

8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you

to guard you carefully;

11 they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

12 Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

- Our sermon series for Lent is about temptation.
- Today, we are going to see how Jesus handles temptation.
- Last time, we saw that temptation began with Satan causing us to question God's Word and God's goodness.
 - We also saw that all temptations fall into one of three categories according to 1 John 2:16: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- This time, we see that the devil is up to his same old tricks.
 - He tempts Jesus to satisfy his hunger by turning stones into bread. This is the lust of the flesh.
 - He tempts Jesus to worship him in exchange for the splendor of the world. This is the lust of the eyes.
 - He tempts Jesus to prove his identity by doing a stunt. This is the pride of life.
 - Also, notice how the devil tries to twist God's Word for his own purposes.
- Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin."
- Jesus resists all of these temptations by saying, "It is written."