

Junior Sunday School Outline
Book- Luke
Chapter- Luke 4
Scripture- Luke 4:1-13

Memory verse- Hebrews 4:12, *“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...”*

INTRODUCTION- Today, with this chapter, we begin to see the Lord’s public ministry on earth unfold. Jesus was “about thirty years of age” at this point (Luke 3:23). From the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it appears that Jesus went straight from His baptism into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1). However, the Gospel of John records that at least three days of events took place after His baptism and before His temptation: first, the salvation of Andrew, John, and Peter on “the next day” after His baptism (John 1:35-42); second, the salvation of Philip and Nathanael on “the day following” (John 1:43-51), and third, the wedding of Cana of Galilee on “the third day” (John 2:1). But, in this chapter, we continue from His baptism directly into the temptation and early ministry of Jesus.

I. JESUS’ TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS (v.1-15)

- A. Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil (v.1-2a)- Notice that the Spirit did not tempt Jesus, but only “led” Him into the wilderness where Satan would tempt Him (James 1:13). The area where this temptation occurred is thought to be around Mt. Quarantania, near the city of Jericho. The Lord was tempted like as we are tempted that He might show us He understands what it is to be tempted, and that He might set the Example for us in overcoming temptation (Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15; I Corinthians 10:13).
- B. Jesus is tempted after forty days and forty nights of fasting in the wilderness (v.2b-15)- Notice the three phases of Christ’s temptation from Satan:
 - 1. **Physical Temptation** (v.3-4)- This was an appeal to the “*flesh*”. Jesus had gone without food for forty days and nights, and had become extremely hungry. The Devil must have thought Jesus to be in His weakest moment, and thus, he tempted Him. The Lord was certainly able to turn stones into bread, but resisted by quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:13).
 - 2. **Spiritual Temptation** (v.5-8)- This was an appeal to the “*soul*”. The Devil took Jesus into an high mountain to show Him all the kingdoms of the world. Satan has dominion over the world, and thus, has power to give these kingdoms to whomever he chooses (II Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31). But, God has promised these kingdoms to Christ, and they would only be inherited by the suffering of the cross (Daniel 7:18). This temptation involved a “shortcut” to the throne bypassing the cross. Jesus again set the Example for the Christian by quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 5:13).

3. **Intellectual Temptation** (v.9-15)- This was an appeal to the *“mind”*. The Devil took Jesus to the highest point of the Temple roof, which was about seventy feet high, and there told Jesus to cast Himself down to prove He is the Son of God. If Jesus would have cast Himself down, He would have presumed upon the mercy of God. This time, Satan even quotes Scripture to Jesus just as many false religions do, today (Psalm 91:11-12). Again, Jesus resisted temptation using Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:16). After being tempted these three times of the Devil and resisting each one, Satan left off from tempting Him (James 4:7).

II. JESUS’ MINISTRY IN GALILEE (v.16-44)

A. Jesus is rejected by the people of His hometown, Nazareth (v.16-30)- Jesus had grown up for nearly thirty years in Nazareth. He entered the synagogue at Nazareth and was asked to read the Scriptures. He read from Isaiah 61:1-2, and stated that this portion of God’s Word was that day fulfilled (v.2, *“...the acceptable year of the Lord...”*). Jesus was trying to show the people of His hometown that they were going to miss a great blessing if they would not accept Him as the Son of God. But instead, the people refused to accept His teaching, and thus, Jesus did no mighty works there.

B. Jesus moves the home base of His public ministry to Capernaum (v.31-44)-

CAPERNAUM- *“town of compassion”*, a town in Galilee located along the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. In Capernaum, Jesus casts a devil out of a demon-possessed man, and we see that even the demons know who Jesus is and fear Him. Next, Jesus heals Simon Peter’s wife’s mother of a fever. Now, Jesus has rebuked both supernatural forces and natural forces against man. Then, Jesus heals many other people in Capernaum. Apparently, the demon-possessed man, Simon Peter’s mother-in-law, and these people were all healed upon the same day, for the Bible states (v.40) that *“the sun was setting”*. This had been one day in the life and ministry of Christ (Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 8:17).

III. CONCLUSION

1. Before Christ would begin His public ministry, He must be baptized of John.
2. Then, Jesus must be tempted of the Devil in the wilderness.
3. With each temptation, Jesus used the only Weapon that God has given to man to battle Satan and that is the blessed Word of God.
4. Then, Jesus performs great miracles in the sight of the people in Galilee.
5. Imagine what great things we could do for the Lord if only we would also use His Word to resist the Devil’s temptations.
6. God is waiting for His people to pick up His Sword and *“whip the Devil”*!
7. If the Bible be such an important Weapon, don’t you think you should spend more time getting to know your Sword by memorizing, reading, and studying it?
8. Song, *“The B-I-B-L-E”*

