



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

How to Live Your Story

Luke 4:1-13

Message #11 of 50 – S786

Sermon given on April 8, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

How to Live Your Story

Luke 4:1-13

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 4**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- A woman comes home from shopping and shows her husband the very expensive dress she bought
- He asks her why she bought it, you know we can't afford that
- She said – I saw it in the store and the devil whispered in my ear – you would look fabulous in that
- So, I went in and tried it on – he was right
- Husband – why didn't say, 'Get behind me, Satan!'
- I did – He told me I looked great from back there too!
- People have some strange ideas about Satan and his tactics
- I haven't watched the show but from what I understand about the series Lucifer, some of those misconceptions can be seen there
- There are many in the world, including some mainstream churches who deny the existence of the devil
- But an honest examination of the Bible makes that impossible
- The devil or Satan is real, he is a being of immense power, and only evil intent always **John 10:10a**

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

- The thief is another of Satan's names in the Bible – also, the deceiver, and most famously the serpent from the Garden of Eden and then the dragon in Revelation
- The devil would like it if we believed he didn't exist, so he could operate without resistance
- But he does exist, and we need to know how to behave when he shows his ugly face in our life
- And by looking at how Jesus responded to the devil, we can know how to live the story of Christ in our life, even in the face of temptation
- Let's pray and then look at those things

- **Pray**

Teaching

- **How to Live Your Story**
- Anyone ever watch a movie, and then see the version that comes out later with an alternate ending
- Rarely does the alternate ending compare to the original, right?
- God is writing the story of your life – and His script is perfect
- But He allows opportunities to go off script
- That is what we are going to see today – God had written the story of Christ’s life on earth – but the devil tempts Him with three opportunities to write the story differently
- **Luke 4:1-2**
- This account is in the gospel of Matthew almost verbatim
- Mark mentions that it happened but gives no details
- Mark does tell us this happened ‘immediately’ after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove, and the Father spoke from heaven approving Jesus for the ministry of the Messiah
- It is humanly possible for a strong, healthy person to go forty days without food, but it brings a person to the point of death
- Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil
- Maybe you are like me, and ask ‘Why?’ Why must Jesus be tempted?
- One of the clues to the answer to that is in another word that is used synonymously with temptation, ‘testing’
- A temptation is a test – will you stay on God’s script or follow another script for your life
- Turn to **Hebrews 2**
- Another question is, could Jesus be tempted – after all, He is God
- The writer to the Hebrews gives us the answer to that
- **Hebrews 2:17**
- Jesus is the merciful and faithful High Priest
- ‘in all things had to be made to be like His brethren’
- That means Jesus was 100% human, while still being 100% God
- Jesus didn’t just shrug off these temptations
- **Hebrews 2:18**

- These temptations caused some type of suffering for Christ
- So now, He can relate to us in our suffering through temptations
- The temptations of Christ were allowed to prove something to the world **H. A. Ironside**

He was not tempted to find out if He could sin, but to prove that he was the sinless One.

- They proved that God's approval was deserved
- Turn back to **Luke 4**
- Luke records three temptations the devil presented to Christ
- The apostle Paul tells us that there are basically three categories of all temptation **1 John 2:15-17**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- Lust of the flesh – lust of the eye – pride of life
- The devil's temptations of Christ follow that exact pattern
- Let's look at the first one – **The lust of the flesh**
- **Luke 4:3**
- Jesus is hungry – forty days without food is a very long time
- This was a real physical need – He needed to eat soon, or He was going to die
- This is where the lust of the flesh operates – within our physical needs and desires – lust = deep desire, longing, or craving
- Each of us can look inside ourselves and should examine our appetites
- Not just for food, but for other desires – sex – affirmation – affection – our appearance
- It is our needs and desires that make us vulnerable to temptation
- Satan told Jesus to command the stones – which means He could have done it – why didn't he do it
- **Luke 4:4**
- Satan is tempting Jesus to take matters into His own hands to take care of this real need that He has
- Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8 (3 times – 3 temptations)
- Remembering God's supernatural provision for the millions of Israelites in the wilderness for forty years

- God had led Jesus out into the wilderness for forty days without food
- By quoting this Scripture, reminding Himself that God is able to take care of Him too
- Rather than taking matters into His own hands, Jesus chose to obey and trust God and His Word
- Jesus trusted God to meet His need when God deemed it the right time
- What needs, or desires do you have that you are being tempted with today?
- Do you know what God's Word says about those needs and desires? Do you know what he has promised you regarding those things?
- God created humans with sexual desires – His Word tells us that desire is to only be fulfilled in a monogamous male/female covenant marriage
- Are you trusting and obeying God or are you taking matters into your own hands to meet that real need you have
- It is humanly possible to resist any and all temptation – Jesus proved that – as a human He resisted every temptation, even at this weakened point
- The fallen nature in us makes that very hard, but not impossible
- Live your story by trusting God to meet your every need and desire in His time and obeying His Word until He does
- Jesus resists the first temptation, but the devil is not done yet
- The second temptation – **The lust of the eye**
- **Luke 2:5-7**
- Satan is offering to give all the nations to Jesus
- He has authority over the nations today
- Three times in John Jesus referred to Satan as the 'prince of this world' – Paul 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air' & 'the god of this age'
- God has promised the same thing to the Messiah Jesus **Psalm 2:7-8**
I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.
- Satan is offering Jesus a shortcut – offering Him the crown without the cross

- The problem with that is without the cross – no atonement – no real forgiveness – no eternal salvation
- This is a temptation to take the easy way, the shortcut, the path of least resistance
- Satan said, ‘worship before me, all will be yours’
- Not calling Jesus to continuous worship, just a single momentary act of worship – a single act of compromise – and He could have it all
- Jesus responds
- **Luke 4:8**
- Any compromise in our life is a form of idolatry
- We probably wouldn’t bow in worship of Satan
- We wouldn’t bow down to a carved image or a metal idol, usually our idolatry is much subtler than that
- In fact, few people will even notice that you are doing it, as you bow to the idol of self
- This is called the lust of the eye, because we see something, and we desire it – it takes a place of importance in our lives that pushes God to the side
- It involves giving power to that thing to make your life better
- This can be an object of some kind like a house or a car, or can be a relationship, or a job or position, or a reputation
- We were created with the need to worship God, not just on Sunday mornings, but every moment of every day
- Every thought, choice, decision ought to be an act of worship and could be to serve God wherever He has placed us
- To live your story, examine your desires and motives, do you want what you want so that you can better worship God and serve Him more? Or do you want them for yourself?
- Third and final temptation – **The pride of life**
- **Luke 4:9-11**
- This is an interesting one – Jewish tradition that the Messiah would appear at the top of the temple
- Satan saying, go ahead and demonstrate how great you are
- Jump off and let them crowds below watch you caught by the angels, land unharmed

- This is a temptation to draw attention to Himself
- Satan is a devious punk – here he is quoting Psalm 91 – challenging Jesus to do something to prove that God will keep His Word
- Jesus responds again
- **Luke 4:12**
- To tempt the Lord – is an attempt to force God to act
- Kent Hughes refers to this as ‘rationalized disobedience’
- Example – God tells us not to be unequally yoked
- But you love that unbeliever, know you shouldn’t marry them, but do it anyway believing God has to save them once you are married
- God is not obligated to respond on your behalf when you are out of His will – He might because He is gracious, but He also might let you live the consequences of your disobedience
- It is the height of arrogance to think you can force God to do anything
- To live your story – let God be God – don’t test Him to see if He will keep His Word – God always keeps His Word, including letting you experience the consequences of rationalized disobedience
- The devil has played his last card
- **Luke 4:13**
- The devil did everything he could to get Jesus, in His terribly weakened state to stumble and failed – and so he left
- But notice – ‘until an opportune time’ – he was coming back
- He would wait for the next time of weakness and attack again **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- The devil is real, and he is looking for the weak
- So how do we resist him – we do it just like Jesus did
- Three quick things
- First thing – **Full of the Holy Spirit**
- Every part of Christ’s life was dedicated to God – to trust and obey Him
- Second thing – **Full of the Word of God**
- Jesus’ response to all three of Satan’s temptations/tests was to quote what God had said

- Third thing – **Empty of Self**
- Jesus didn't concern Himself with His own needs, wants, desires
- He lived to do God's will
- Temptations are a fact of life – no avoiding them – they are tests
- God has already written your story – when the opportunity comes to write your own chapter, do what Jesus did, stick with what God wrote
- **Pray!**