

**Luke 4:1-13 - The Temptation of Jesus****Monday Morning Moment:** John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."**What we learn about Satan****1. Satan appears to have almost unlimited access to everyone****GENESIS 3:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE CRAFTY THAN ANY BEAST OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE. AND HE SAID TO THE WOMAN, "INDEED, HAS GOD SAID, 'YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE OF THE GARDEN'?"

**EZEKIEL 28:12 – 19; ISAIAH 14:12 – 16; JOB 1:6 - 7**

**2. Satan acknowledges that Jesus is God.**

**LUKE 4:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup>AND THE DEVIL SAID TO HIM, "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, TELL THIS STONE TO BECOME BREAD."

- *"If Thou be the Son of God" (Luke 4:3, 9) is not a supposition but an affirmation. It means "in view of the fact that You are the Son of God" (WUEST).*
- *In fact, the fact of His deity was the basis for the first of the three temptations. "Since You are the Son of God," Satan argued, "why be hungry? You can change stones into bread!" Satan wanted Jesus to disobey the Father's will by using His divine power for His own purposes.*

**MATTHEW 8:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup>AND THEY CRIED OUT, SAYING, "WHAT BUSINESS DO WE HAVE WITH EACH OTHER, SON OF GOD? HAVE YOU COME HERE TO TORMENT US BEFORE THE TIME?"

**JAMES 2:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup>YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD IS ONE. YOU DO WELL; THE DEMONS ALSO BELIEVE, AND SHUDDER.

**3. Satan always tries to create an atmosphere of doubt/deception**

- **Luke 4:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

**GENESIS 3:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE CRAFTY THAN ANY BEAST OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE. AND HE SAID TO THE WOMAN, "INDEED, HAS GOD SAID, 'YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE OF THE GARDEN'?"

**JOB 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>THEN SATAN ANSWERED THE LORD, "DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?"

**JOHN 20:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup>THEN HE SAID\* TO THOMAS, "REACH HERE WITH YOUR FINGER, AND SEE MY HANDS; AND REACH HERE YOUR HAND AND PUT IT INTO MY SIDE; AND DO NOT BE UNBELIEVING, BUT BELIEVING."

### **JOHN 8:44 (NASB)**

<sup>44</sup>“YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND YOU WANT TO DO THE DESIRES OF YOUR FATHER. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHENEVER HE SPEAKS A LIE, HE SPEAKS FROM HIS OWN NATURE, FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES.

## **2. What we learn about temptations**

- *God may lead us into an environment where there is temptation*  
*The first Adam was tempted in a beautiful Garden and failed. The Last Adam was tempted in a dangerous wilderness (Mark 1:13) and succeeded.*
- *Temptation is Satan’s weapon to defeat us, but it can become God’s tool to build us (see James 1:1-8, 13-17).*

**Hebrews 2:18 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup>For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

**Hebrews 4:15 - 16** <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB)** <sup>11</sup>so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

## **3. What we learn about Jesus**

*a. Jesus is indeed the “beloved Son” who always does whatever pleases His Father*

**John 8:28 - 30 (NASB)** <sup>28</sup>So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

<sup>29</sup>“And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

<sup>30</sup>As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

**Luke 3:22** <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

**Luke 4:22** <sup>22</sup>And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

*b. As the eternal Son of God, He had power to do anything; but as the humble Son of man, He had authority to do only that which the Father willed. (Note carefully John 5:17, 30; 8:28; 10:17-18; 15:10, 15.)*

*c. He always used the Word to defeat the temptation/Satan.\**

## **Know the Word**

Jesus was able to resist all of the devil’s temptations because he not only knew Scripture, but he also obeyed it. Ephesians 6:17 says that God’s Word is a sword to use in spiritual combat. Knowing Bible verses is an important step in helping believers resist the devil’s attacks, but they must also obey the Bible. Note that Satan knew the Scriptures, but he failed to obey them. Knowing and obeying the Bible helps you follow God’s desires rather than the devil’s.

Knowing and obeying God’s Word is an effective weapon against temptation, the only “offensive” weapon provided in the Christian’s “armor” (Ephesians 6:17). Jesus used Scripture to counter Satan’s attacks, and you can too. Obeying the Scriptures is more important than simply having a verse to quote, so read them daily and apply them to your life.

### **Ephesians 6:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.