**PP (Sermon graphic slide) Summer in the Son: *Luke***

Luke 4:1-13 *The Temptation of Jesus* 6/11-12/2022

All roads in the bible lead to Jesus Christ but on some of those roads, there are mountains and

forests in the way and it is difficult to know how to see the Son of God

Other roads however, you turn the corner and there He is, right in front of us clearly

This is the experience we will have this summer as we travel the road of Luke’s gospel

We begin in **Luke 4**, in the temptation of Jesus but we won’t see the way that He overcame

temptation as an example for us to do the same, as if He is saying *That’s how you do it*

There is a much greater purpose for Luke including this story, so we begin at Luke 4, ***“And***

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

***wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil”* Luke 4:1-2**

**PP 1-Jesus was tempted by the devil**

He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit, where He was tempted by the devil

**PP** The word ***‘devil’*** is the Greek term used to translate the Hebrew word ***‘Satan’*** and it means

accuser, slanderer and divider

**PP *“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the***

***kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our***

***brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.’”***

**Revelation 12:10**

Accusation, slander, condemnation are not the languages of our gracious God, but of the devil

Knowing this can empty the pain from a slanderous accusation

Our Heavenly Father simply does not speak this way and neither should you or I!

But the devil does and so do those he influences for his character is to slander, accuse and divide,

and his favorite weapon is *temptation*

**PP** The word ***‘tempted’*** has two main meanings, which are to *test or prove* in a good sense, or in

a bad sense, to *entice to evil*

God cannot tempt anyone, enticing them to evil, but He will test us and when He does His aim is

to prove Himself faithful, and His people’s faith real

Satan tempts us in order to discredit God, enticing us to forsake God and satisfy our own desires

**PP** Christian, every temptation is the devil’s swipe at God

**PP James** says, ***“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God***

***cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted***

***when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”* 1:13-15**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor in Hitler’s time, wrote similarly, **PP** *“In [each of us] there*

*is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. All at once a*

*secret, smoldering fire is kindled. Joy in God is…being extinguished in us and we seek*

*all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality,*

*and only desire for the creature is real. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God,*

*but with forgetfulness of God…It is here that everything within me rises up against the*

*Word of God.”*

Christian, temptation pulls and inflames a desire within us until it consumes to the point where

we forget God and His Word, convinced that what we want is right and good

This is the strategy of the devil in temptation, but would he succeed with Christ?

**PP 2-Jesus was tempted in all ways that we are**

All temptations we face fall into what the Apostle John wrote: **PP *“For all that is in the world***

***—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the***

***Father but is from the world.”* 1 John 2:16**

These are 3 avenues of temptation and each are employed against our Lord in that wilderness

**PP** **i. *The desires of the flesh-“And He ate nothing during those days. And when they were***

 ***ended, He was hungry. The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command***

***this stone to become bread.”* 4:2–3**

I have read that when fasting for a long time, hunger strangely leaves you for awhile but then

comes roaring back with overwhelming force

Jesus ate nothing for 40 days, fasting, and the devil attacked in this vulnerable time

As we will see with each of these temptations, it was the same attack he launched against Eve

An enticement through food, a basic desire of the flesh, to act independently from God

The devil attacks at this point of weakness: ***‘If you are the Son of God’***, a challenge not doubt

***“And Jesus answered Him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone.”’***

Jesus quoted a verse from **PP Deuteronomy 8:3** ***“man does not live by bread alone, but man***

***lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”***

The disciples once tried to get a hungry and tired Jesus to eat, but He said, **PP *“My food is***

***to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.”* John 4:34**

My strength, My food, My desire is to do God’s will, not My own, and I will live by His Word

*Devil, yes I am hungry, but My Father knows it, and He will provide food when He chooses*

 *but I depend completely on his provision for My life in all things*

**PP** *To succumb to temptation is to refuse to trust that God has our best in mind so we reach out*

*and pluck that which we believe will satisfy us*

**PP** Sin is a disbelief in God’s goodness, and temptation the incitement to belief that lie

If we needed something for our greatest happiness, would not the Father give it to us?

Surely Jesus had a great desire to eat, but He had a greater desire to depend on God, knowing

that His Father will fulfill that desire when it is time

**PP** **ii. *The desires of the eyes-“And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of***

***the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, “To you I will give all this authority***

***and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You,***

***then, will worship me, it will all be Yours.”* 4:5-7**

**PP** There is a consistent path that temptation takes in a Christian:

We have a desire for something that we believe will fulfill us

A duel erupts between doubt and belief that God will provide

We make a decision to either disobey or wait on God to provide it

That decision determines whether we will experience emptiness or blessing

Do you recall that when Eve **PP *‘saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight***

***to the eyes…she took of its fruit and ate’*** (**Genesis 3:6**)?

**Job 31:7** tells us that our hearts go after our eyes which is why he said **PP *“I promised myself***

***never to stare with desire at a young woman”* Job 31:1 CEV**

In the same way, the devil showed Jesus the authority and glory that he could give to Him

In other words, Jesus could have the crown without the cross, the glory without the gory…what a

brilliant temptation by the devil, but it was about to fail spectacularly

***“And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only***

***shall you serve.”’”***  **Luke 4:8**

He would not seek a shortcut, an alternate plan, He would seek no easy way but take the path His

Father had given Him

He would not seek His own kingdom, nor sit on a throne of His own making, but wait for the

throne His Father would give Him and He’d have that by worshiping and serving Him

Friends, His Father would give Him all authority and there is a lesson here for us

When we yield to temptations of desire, we actually forfeit the true blessings we could have had

Trusting in God, depending on Him, brings us the greatest blessings but in God’s way and time

Jesus got everything Satan tempted Him with, but in a way that glorified His Father

**PP** **iii. *The pride of life-“And he took Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the***

***temple and said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for***

***it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and ‘On***

***their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”*  4:9–11**

Experts say this could have either been the 450 foot high drop from the roof of the Royal Portico

of the temple overlooking the Kidron Valley, or the 150 foot high Sanctuary roof itself

My guess is the latter where there would have been scores of people below to witness Him

suspended in mid air by invisible angels while he spectacularly floats to the ground

The temptation was to show the world that he was the Son of God, with power and majesty

After all, who likes the poor, who respects the humble, who will follow the weak?

The devil quoted **Psalm 91** but conveniently left a part out…**PP *“For He will command His***

***angels concerning you to guard You in all Your ways.”*  Psalm 91:11**

***‘all your ways’*** are God’s ways, not my own ways, or the ways of this world

So Jesus answered the devil with God’s Word, ***“It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God***

***to the test.’”* 4:12**

I will not put God on the spot, trying to force Him to act according to My will

Testing God is not trusting God, so I will I will serve His will not demand He serves mine

*Devil, you have a great marketing scheme for Me, but it will market Me and not My Father and I*

*have come to give Him glory*

**PP 3-Jesus overcame all temptations and is our faithful High Priest**

I said at the beginning that learning how to overcome temptation is not Luke’s main point here

His point becomes clearer with the last 4 words of **Luke 3:38**, ***“the son of God.”***

Luke referred here to Adam, but connected it to the declaration of the Heavenly Father at the

baptism of Jesus in **3:22**, ***“You are My beloved Son”***

Again he connected this sonship theme in two of the temptations of the devil, ***‘if you are the Son***

***of God’*** **4:3, 9**

It’s not that he was trying to see if Jesus was the Son, for that was declared at the baptism by God

He was trying to cause Jesus to doubt His relationship with His Father, His identity as His Son

*Would a good Father really let His Son starve in this desert? Forsake Him and feed yourself!*

*Would a good Father really let His Son go through suffering to gain a kingdom? Forsake His*

*plan and I will give you one!*

*Would a good Father really ask you to be poor, weak and humble? Follow my marketing plan*

*and you can have it all!*

But Jesus saw through the deception and unlike the first Adam who reached for the desire of his

flesh with fruit he saw to be good; whose heart followed his eyes with a lust to make

himself wise; whose pride of life moved him to want to be like God in glory and power

Jesus, the second Adam did not succumb, He loved His Father more than anything in this world

He was ***‘full of the Holy Spirit’***, full of the Scriptures, temptation had no pull on His heart

Therefore, **PP *“we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,***

***but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then***

***with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find***

***grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:15-16**

Jesus did what we could not do, enduring all temptation in our place, therefore, when we are

tempted, the solution is to flee to Jesus

We do not need a formula for resisting temptation, we need Jesus, His power, His righteousness

We have a Great High Priest Who understands the ways of the devil, the difficulty of his attacks

As our High Priest He offered Himself as our sacrifice and gave us His righteousness to do right

When temptation comes go to Him boldly, and you will find grace and mercy in our time of need

He is our shield, our victory, interceding and praying for us, so go to Him with confidence!

Every temptation that the devil unleashes is a swipe at God and intended for our failure

Yet every one of them is allowed by God as a test for us…let us trust in God for He is good

Pray