

Overcoming Temptation . . . Just Like Jesus – Luke 4:1-13

Start a new series in our study of the book of Luke titled *Just Like Jesus*

The premise being that because he is the perfect example of living a life pleasing to the Lord, we should strive to live just like he did
Face opposition just like Jesus; Take risks just like Jesus

Message this morning – Overcome temptation just like Jesus

If you're thinking there's no way – he's God; he's perfect

Important to understand that he was also in the flesh, just like you and I

Heb 4:14 – *We do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Heb 2:18 – *Because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

One of the reasons Jesus became just like us, is so that we could live just like him

He's our example, and it's from *his* life that we get help and insight to deal with the issues of *our* life

One of the big issues that every single one of us face, all the time, non-stop – is tempt.

Temptation in and of itself is not wrong; Giving in to it, is

So it's pretty important to see how Jesus overcame it, and then do likewise

Turn to Luke 4:1-13

1 – *full of the HS* – completely controlled by and at the disposal of

2 – He was *tempted by the devil*

Jesus was tempted *directly* by Satan; That's not necessarily the case for all of us

Not everyone is tempted *directly* by the devil or even one of his demons

Satan/demons are not present everywhere like God

But all of us are tempted *indirectly* by Satan and his demons due to their influence on our culture, the people around us, and situations we encounter in life

In either case, direct or indirect, Satan's temptations are equally as strong

The first part of overcoming temptation just like Jesus is to . . .

Beware of Satan's tactics

Understand his methods and strategies – it's half the battle

Bible says he *prowl[s] around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour* (1 Pet 5:8)

If ever seen a lion hunt their prey, you get the picture; Crouch, wait, then pounce

Also says that he's crafty and deceitful

Just as success on the military battlefield depends heavily on knowing and anticipating your enemy's tactics . . .

So too, success in overcoming temptation depends heavily on knowing and anticipating the devil's tactics

The first of which is that . . .

• **He uses fatigue to undermine your faith (v1-4)**

Your faith that God will provide for you; Take care of you

Jesus was hungry (2), physically weak, emotionally spent, and probably suffering from ecstatic let-down coming off his baptism and then right into the loneliness of desert

In that condition, Satan's like, "forget about trusting God to provide for you; he's obviously not going to do that; take care of yourself"

He used his fatigued as an opp to undermine his faith that God would provide for him

He does the same thing with you and I – when we're tired he comes whispering –

"Lacking enough money? I wonder why? Maybe God can't take of you"

"Little scared/fearful? What if God can't protect you?"

"Lonely? Maybe God's not really with you; Maybe he's abandoned you"

One of Satan's tactics is to undermine/question your faith when you're most tired

If he can just get you to *consider* those thoughts; Dwell on them just a little . . .

Then you'll be tempted to take matters into own hands

"If you don't take care of #1, nobody will; You obviously can't rely on God"

"Look at the mess you're in now"

Do you hear the lies?

Those things sound ridiculous when well rested, sitting in church

But take away the Christian fellowship because of your travel schedule

Subtract a few hours of sleep each night; Throw in some hard days . . .

And if you're not careful, you'll start to wonder if those thoughts might be true

Part of overcoming temptation is knowing that Satan uses your fatigue

And *then* identifying when that is in your life; When you're most tired

When is that? When's your weak point each week?

Friday morning? Thursday night? Monday morning?

When I was a bond trader, it was *every* morning at 4:20 – that's when I got up to catch the first train into Chicago

I finally had to resolve that I wouldn't even think – period; Not even the cereal

If I did, my mind would go in all kinds of crazy and unhealthy directions

Now, it's Monday mornings

Not only am I tired, but there's the ecstatic let-down after preaching

Happens to every pastor to some extent or another

So I have to guard my thoughts very closely on Mondays

How about you? When are you weakest?

When is it that you're physically tired, emotionally spent, spiritually dry?

Those are the times when you're most susceptible to the devil's temptation

Beware of his tactics in this; Know your weak points; Avoid desert places as much as can

• **He exploits your desires to steal your worship (v5-8)**

Jesus knew he would one day reign in power, glory, and majesty again

One day people from every nation would worship him and glorify him

But that was still future; For now, some very important/difficult things, had to happen

Here was Satan exploiting Jesus' rightful *desire* to rule and reign and avoid suffering

He did so by offering him a shortcut – look at v5-6

No cross, no suffering, no shame, no sin to bear – no problem

It's yours for the taking . . . with one caveat – worship me (v7)

He had to swear allegiance to the devil; To serve him

Instead of worshipping/serving/glorifying the Father in heaven

Satan is a master of exploiting our desires in order to steal our worship

Worship is his goal; That's why he was thrown out of heaven in the first place

He wanted the worship that God enjoyed/deserved

He falsely promises you the easy road, satisfying all your desires, if you live his way
The way of the world
“You don’t need to walk in the light with Christ”
“Come on over here and walk in the shadows – you can have the best of both worlds”
“It’s a lot easier; you can do whatever you want; Don’t have to worry about anything”

Just think of some of the carrots he holds out to exploit your worldly desires –
Sex – if he can get you to obsess on sex, he’s stolen your worship
Money – if he can get you to pursue money, he’s stolen your pursuit of God
Notoriety/fame – to the extent it’s all about you, it’s not about God
And on and on he exploits your desires for ease, comfort, instant gratification
“You can have it all right now – No pain, all gain”
That’s how he exploits your desires to steal your worship

Don’t get sucked in; Keep your focus; Beware of his tactic
Don’t share your worship with any other or any thing
Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only (8)

• **He twists the truth to weaken your confidence (v9-12)**

Your confidence in who you are as a child of God, and your confidence in his Word
Read v9-11 – If you’re really who you *claim* you are . . .
And you’re really who God *says* you are (My beloved Son – 3:22) . . .
And you *really* believe this Word that you’ve been spouting . . .
Then prove it; Talk is cheap
If it’s all true, there shouldn’t be any hesitation; You have nothing to lose

This last temptation is a brilliant tactic
If Jesus *doesn’t* jump, then he doesn’t *really* believe that he’s God’s Son
Or he doesn’t *really* believe that the Word of God is true
If he *does* jump he either dies or he sins by putting God to the test (12)
See how he twists things around and uses *doubt* to weaken your confidence?
Your confidence in who you are as a child of God
Your confidence in the truth of God’s Word

Ever had doubts like that?
“You’re not a child of God – who are trying to kid?”
“This is all a game; a great big show”
“Say whatever you want about the Bible, but you can’t prove it”

Have you been there? I have; I used to wrestle all the time with those doubts
And every single time I’d have to go back to the basics of why I could trust the Bible to
be true and reliable and authoritative for my life
I’d have to re-think why I can be sure that God is living and active in our world
I’d have to remind myself of all that he has clearly done in my life
Remind myself of all he’s done in history and in the lives of those who’ve gone before

Each time I had to go through that, made the next time shorter and less of a struggle
I’d thought it through so much, eventually there was no doubt at all
If that’s you, if doubts pop up now and then, labor through them and get answers to
your questions

Don’t let them linger, because it’s one of the tools Satan uses to twist the truth and
weaken your confidence

If you want to overcome temptation just like Jesus – beware of Satan’s tactics, and . . .
Hit him with God’s Word (v4,8,12)

You’re not going to out-argue or out-think Satan
You’re not going to overcome *his* temptation with *your* logic
Your word carries no weight with him and his throng
It has no effect on the strength of his temptation
The only thing that will silence him and relieve you of the temptation is to respond to
his lies and tactics with God’s truth
That’s what Jesus did in v4 . . . v8 . . . v12 (read them)

EV Hill message – pastor in LA for 30+ years, 1993 I was present to hear him preach to
50k men on this passage
In the rhythm of his message, he kept saying that to overcome Satan’s temptation, we
need to *hit ’em* with Scripture
When you’re at work and he comes knocking – hit ’em
When you’re at home and he works to divide your family – hit ’em
When you’re away from home and he sets the bait – hit ’em
Pretty soon, crowd picked up on it and began to say hit ’em each time he did
Eventually taking over completely and repeating in unison – hit ’em, hit ’em, hit ’em
After about two minutes of that, he closed his Bible, walked off the stage, 7 minutes
into his message
The point was made; And I’ve never forgotten it

If there’s an area where you tend to struggle – be *proactive* and learn some key verses that
deal with it . . . Gossip, Lust, Greed, Priorities, Materialism
If don’t know where to start – Back of most study Bibles; Ask a friend
Quick Scripture Reference booklets (SG or Resource Tables)
Be proactive, find some verses that speak to your weakness, and keep them with you
Write them down and put one or two in your pocket throughout the week
It’s a great way to do like the Psalmist in Ps 119:11 . . .
I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

When Satan tempts you to give up on God
To take control because you think God has dropped the ball
Go to his Word, *refresh* your memory with his promises to provide – and hit-him
When Satan tempts you to satisfy the desires of your flesh . . .
Go to God’s Word, *remember* his jealousy for your worship – and hit-him
When Satan tempts you to doubt God’s truth . . .
Go to the Word, *renew* your mind to think biblically once again – and hit-him

Beware of Satan’s tactics, and when the time comes – hit-him with God’s Word . . . just
like Jesus

