

# THE PRINCE OF THE DARK

LUKE 4:1-13

As we have seen in this series, some of the Bible's greatest heroes had dark experiences. They were developed by those painful experiences and used by God to impact their world. Today we examine Jesus Himself, the Light of the World, facing off with the Prince of Darkness. This encounter gives us insight into both the nature of temptation and the resolve of Jesus to follow His Father's plan for saving the world.

## IMPORTANT TRUTHS:

1. The prince of the dark is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The prince of the dark looks to attack in moments of \_\_\_\_\_.

## HOW DOES THE SATAN GO AFTER JESUS?

1. The prince of the dark offers to fulfill \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The prince of the dark offers the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The prince of the dark appeals to our \_\_\_\_\_.

\* A TEXT without a \_\_\_\_\_ is a PRETEXT for a PROOF TEXT.

4. Jesus used the \_\_\_\_\_ in His battle with the satan.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture, KNOW the power of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture, NO power of God.

**Scripture References (In order of use):** 1 Peter 5:8; Luke 10:18; Luke 8:12; John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 22:29

**Referenced Works:** Addresses on the Gospel of Luke (H. A. Ironside); The Gospel According to Luke (Bob Utley); Luke 1:1-9:50 (Darrell Bock); Supernatural (Michael Heiser); Demons (Michael Heiser)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you experienced an unexpected challenge or difficulty right after a spiritual "high". How did you respond?
2. Read **Luke 4:1-13**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think many people today don't believe in a literal devil? How does disbelief in the enemy make us more vulnerable to his schemes?
4. Cravings (Luke 4:3-4): Satan questioned God's provision and care. When have you been tempted to doubt God's goodness or provision? How did you respond?
5. Eyes/Desires (Luke 4:5-8): Satan offered Jesus a shortcut to avoid suffering. What "shortcuts" does our culture offer that bypass God's way? Why are we so attracted to immediate gratification?
6. Pride (Luke 4:9-12): Satan even quoted Scripture (out of context) to tempt Jesus. How can we protect ourselves from misusing or being misled by Scripture taken out of context?
7. Jesus responded to each temptation with "The Scriptures say..." How well do you know Scripture? What prevents you from spending more time in God's Word?
8. Patrick stated: "Know Scripture, know the power of God. No Scripture, no power of God." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
9. Read **Hebrews 4:12** and **Ephesians 6:17**. What does it mean practically to use Scripture as a "sword" in daily spiritual battles?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- **Context Study:** Choose a frequently quoted verse and study its context. Read the entire chapter (or book if it's short). Journal what you learned about the verse's true meaning.
- **Remove the Shortcut:** Identify one area where you're tempted to take a shortcut rather than wait on God. Take a concrete step to resist that temptation (delete an app, set a boundary, confess to someone). Ask someone to hold you accountable.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## Day 1: The Reality of Our Enemy

*Reading: 1 Peter 5:8-11*

The enemy of your soul is not a symbol or metaphor—he is real, active, and prowling. Peter's warning reminds us that spiritual warfare isn't optional; it's the reality of Christian life. The devil seeks to devour through discouragement, deception, and distraction. Yet notice Peter's encouragement: resist him, standing firm in faith. You're not alone in this battle. Believers worldwide face the same struggles, and God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. Today, acknowledge the reality of spiritual opposition in your life. Where have you been treating the enemy as merely symbolic? Ask God for alertness and the courage to stand firm in faith, knowing He fights for you.

## Day 2: Vulnerable After Victory

*Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-8*

Elijah experienced a mountaintop victory on Mount Carmel, calling down fire from heaven. Yet immediately after, Jezebel's threat sent him fleeing into depression and despair. Spiritual highs often precede spiritual attacks. The enemy knows when you're most vulnerable—after worship experiences, answered prayers, or ministry breakthroughs. He strikes when you're physically depleted, emotionally exhausted, or spiritually satisfied. Like Jesus in the wilderness after His baptism, expect temptation to follow triumph. Recognize this pattern in your own life. After meaningful worship or spiritual growth, guard your heart intentionally. Don't be surprised by sudden distractions, doubts, or discouragement. Instead, draw even closer to God, rest in His presence, and let Him sustain you through the vulnerable moments that follow victory.

## Day 3: Battling the Cravings

*Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Jesus quoted this passage when Satan tempted Him to satisfy physical hunger through spiritual compromise. God sometimes allows hunger—physical, emotional, relational—not because He's withholding good things, but because He's teaching us dependence. The Israelites learned in the wilderness that daily manna represented God's daily provision and faithfulness. What cravings are you facing today? Loneliness? Recognition? Comfort? Security? These aren't wrong desires, but when we bypass God's timing and provision to satisfy them our way, we fall into temptation. Feed your soul before feeding your appetites. Spend time in God's Word today. Let Scripture satisfy the deeper hunger only God can fill.

## Day 4: No Shortcuts to God's Promises

*Reading: Genesis 16:1-6; 21:1-7*

Abraham and Sarah couldn't wait for God's promise of a son, so they took matters into their own hands through Hagar. The result? Immediate gratification but lasting complications and heartache. Years later, God fulfilled His promise in Isaac—exactly as He said He would. Satan loves to offer shortcuts: "Why wait on God? Take control now. Worship me just this once, and I'll give you what you want." But delayed obedience is disobedience, and shortcuts always have consequences. God's timing isn't slow; it's perfect. His promises aren't uncertain; they're guaranteed. What promise are you tempted to force? What shortcut looks appealing? Resist the enemy's offer. Worship God alone. Wait for His timing. His fulfillment always exceeds our expectations and brings lasting satisfaction.

## Day 5: The Sword of the Spirit

*Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18*

Jesus defeated Satan with one weapon: the Word of God. Three temptations, three scriptures, complete victory. Paul calls Scripture "the sword of the Spirit"—our offensive weapon in spiritual warfare. But you cannot wield a weapon you don't know how to use. Ignorance of God's Word leaves you defenseless against the enemy's lies, half-truths, and twisted scriptures. The devil knows the Bible; do you? Not just favorite verses, but context, meaning, and application. Commit today to sharpening your sword. Read Scripture daily. Memorize key passages. Study context. Meditate on truth. When temptation comes—and it will—you'll be ready to respond like Jesus: "It is written." The Word of God is alive, powerful, and sharp enough to defeat every scheme of darkness.

## DEACONS ON CALL

John Harris and Jason Swann

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Spring Break. See you March 25!
- **FIRST KIDS:** Spring Break. See you March 25!
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Spring Break. See you March 25!

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