INTRODUCTION

A. In an effort to stop the spread of Covid-19 we’ve been asked by our government and health officials to put in to practice certain behaviors.

1. Social distancing.
2. Wearing masks when we go out.
3. Wearing gloves.
4. Staying at home if we are a non-essential worker.
   a. The tag “non-essential” stings a bit.
   b. The technical term for staying at home is quarantine.

5. Are you having any difficulty living in quarantine?
   a. Some women are called “stay at home moms”.
   b. Some employees already worked from home.
   c. Some kids were already in home school.

6. However, for the rest of us we are accustomed to being “out and about”.

B. I googled some articles about quarantining and found some interesting titles.

1. “How to survive quarantine with a preschooler.”
2. “How to protect your mental health while quarantining”.
3. “How not to completely hate the people you’re quarantining with”.
4. “Surviving quarantine without killing anyone”.

C. Did you know there are 16 Bible verses about quarantine? Here are just a few—2 Kings 15:5; Lev. 13:46; 2 Chronicles 26:21 and Luke 17:12.

2 Kings 15:5a
The Lord afflicted the king with leprosy until the day he died, and he lived in a separate house...

Leviticus 13:46
As long as they have the disease, they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

2 Chronicles 26:21a
King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house—leprous and banned from the temple of the Lord.

Luke 17:12
As Jesus was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance.
D. In an article, I was reminded that Jesus experienced a 40-day quarantine in the desert where he fasted and was tempted by the devil. The story is found in Luke 4.


   **Luke 4:1**
   
   Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

2. How did Jesus survive his quarantine?

I. **FIRST, JESUS REALIZED THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL OF HIS QUARANTINE**

   A. This is what Luke 4:1 says.

   **Luke 4:1**
   
   4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

   B. This verse tells us that sometimes God uses a quarantine to teach us something.

   1. God quarantined Moses in the desert for 40 years to teach him how to lead Israel out of Egyptian slavery.

   2. God quarantined Israel for 400 years in that same desert to teach them how to be His representatives to the rest of the world.

   3. Now, God quarantined His own Son in preparation for his rescue mission to the whole world.

   C. What did Jesus learn while he was quarantined by God? He learned that God was in control.

   1. First, God controlled the fact that Jesus was even in quarantine as Luke 4:1 said “He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness”.

      a. The devil wasn’t in control of Jesus’ quarantine, God was.

      b. Likewise, the Coronavirus isn’t in control of our quarantine because God is.

      c. God didn’t cause this virus, but He uses it to accomplish His will.
2. Second, God also controlled Satan’s temptation of Jesus as Luke 4:1-2 says ... He led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...

   a. God allowed Satan to tempt Job.

   b. God also allowed Satan to tempt Jesus.

   c. God, likewise, allows Satan to tempt us.

3. Third, God controlled how long Jesus was in quarantine according to Luke 4:2...
   where for forty days he was tempted by the devil... Similarly only God knows how long this deadly virus is going to quarantine us, not Dr. Fauci or Dr. Birx.

4. The lesson for us today is that God is in control of our situation and that’s a great place to be.

II. SECOND, JESUS NOT ONLY LEARNED THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL OF HIS SITUATION, HE ALSO LEARNED HOW TO RESIST THE DEVIL.

A. How did Satan tempt Jesus?


   **Luke 4:2-4**
   2 ...for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

   a. Although Jesus was fully God, he also was fully man, so when it says he was hungry we can be sure he was indeed hungry.

   b. In preparation for our quarantine we stocked up on food so we wouldn’t get hungry. Many people in our nation don’t have enough to eat and are in long lines just to get a single box of food. Rest assured our church’s food bank is open and ready to serve anyone who is hungry.

   c. I’ve read that this quarantine has led some to seek out inappropriate ways to feed their physical appetites.

      i. Alcohol sales are at an all-time high.
      ii. Marijuana, likewise, is in high demand.
      iii. Drugs to treat depression are popular.
      iv. Porn is an ever-present temptation during these days of isolation.
      v. So, many of us today are under Satanic attack, as Jesus was.
2. Satan also tempted Jesus emotionally by promising him all the kingdoms of the world if he would just fall down and worship him.
   a. Satan wrongly thought power and control was what Jesus was after.
   b. During today’s quarantine many lash out at being cooped up inside or forced to stay away from their jobs.
   c. This illustrates our emotional need to be in control of our own lives. We say such things as “It’s my life and I can live it any way I want to” or “No one can tell me what to do”.
   d. So this quarantine is taking an emotional toll on us as well as a physical one.

B. How did Jesus withstand Satan’s temptations?

1. First, Jesus resisted temptation by relying on the Holy Spirit—4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness

   a. The Apostle Paul urges us to be controlled by the Holy Spirit rather than our baser instincts—Ephesian 5:17.

   Ephesians 5:18
   Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

   b. So, like Jesus, if we are to resist temptation, we must relinquish control of our lives to the Holy Spirit in us.

2. Second, Jesus resisted temptation by relying on God’s Word.

   a. Satan tempted Jesus three times, and, in each instance, Jesus responded by saying “It is written” before quoting a verse from the O.T.

   b. However, before we can use God’s word to resist temptation, we must know God’s Word. How well do we know it today?

   c. The lesson for us here is don’t try to resist the devil on your own because God is ready to help—I Corinthians 10:13.

   1 Corinthians 10:13
   No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

   d. Another lesson is to realize during this quarantine you may be tempted to say something or do something that ordinarily you wouldn’t say or do. So let’s ask God to help us get through this without needing any counseling or having to extract our foot from our mouths.
CONCLUSION

A. One last thought. Jesus was stronger after his 40-day quarantine, according to Luke 4:14.

   **Luke 4:14**
   Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

B. My hope and prayer is that we too, as Christians and as churches, will be stronger when this quarantine is over. Let’s don’t allow the devil to weaken our faith or our support of the Lord’s church.