

## Tried & True

(Luke 4:1~13, part 1)

Some people do not believe that Satan is real...but believe me, he is real. Just beyond what we are able to see with these eyes, is a spiritual world, filled with both good and evil spirits. This world is filled with the powers of darkness, the “Spirit of evil is lurking in it’s shadows. At the head of these powers, is Satan himself. The name Satan means, “*adversary*.” He’s also referred to here as the Devil, which means, “*slanderer*.” He is ascribed many names in scripture, “the *serpent*,” “the *tempter*,” the *wicked one*,” “the *prince of the power of the air*”...“the **ruler of this world**,” the **god of this age**.” Once an angel of God, he sought to usurp the authority of God and was cast out of heaven. And ever since, he has fought the Lord. He hates God and everything associated with him, especially his people. The first mention of him is in the garden, where he deceived Adam and Eve, which resulted in the fall of mankind. Every since that day, the world has been under his power and influence.

The N.T. reveals a war that is raging between God and Satan over this world and the people in it. Jesus came into the world as a conquering king, to overthrow the king of this world, and take back what rightfully belongs to God. To accomplish this, would require Jesus to lay down his life on the cross. No doubt, when Satan had him nailed to the tree, no doubt he thought he had won the victory. A dead messiah hanging on a tree, appeared to be a victory for Satan. But the truth was, that is what sealed the victory for the Lord. For through and by his death on the cross, the door of redemption has been opened for all of mankind, opening the door of salvation to all sinners who will come. Think about, God is so wise, He used his opponent the devil, to bring about the victory by allowing him to crucify His son. Christ was victorious in his battle with the devil, bringing about the redemption of all mankind. One day, Christ will return in the sky, holding the “*Deed of earth*” in his hands, and will take back what rightfully belongs to God, sealing the fate of the devil forever...

Here we read of the personal confrontation between Jesus Christ, *the Son of God* and Satan, *the God of this world*. We are not told what form the devil may have taken on this occasion, we only know that his confrontation with Jesus was direct and personal. They spoke to one another, moved about together.

The only information we have of this encounter is what transpired following the 40 days of temptation. According to Luke, the interaction we read of here between the two, took place after the forty days were completed. Thus it remains a mystery as to all that Jesus was subjected to; the only thing we know is that Jesus passed the test.

Two words kept coming to my mind as I was studying this passage, was ***Tried and True***...

Tried and True is an expression often used to describe someone who has undergone *tremendous adversity*, someone who has “*walked through the fire*” as it were, and has come out the other side unaffected. Still as strong or stronger than when they went in. That is what I see here, Jesus is subjected to the worst that Satan has to offer, yet comes out the other side victorious...***Tried & True***...

The underlying theme of the temptation is *the steadfast obedience of the Son to the will of the Father*... According to what is written, this encounter was instigated by the Father, for it states that Jesus was “*led by the Spirit into the wilderness*.” It suggests that this confrontation with Satan was no accident, but God’s will. Having just been commissioned by God the Father for the work He was sent to do, the first thing he would do is to face his enemy.

***Looking at this passage, there seems to be two typologies present...***

The first being a comparison and contrast between Jesus and Adam... In 3:22, Luke records that God spoke out of heaven, declaring Jesus to be His son. Then Luke traces the genealogy of Christ, all the way back to Adam. So there seems to be at least a hint of this being a contrast between the two. We have Adam's confrontation with the devil in the garden; here we have Jesus' confrontation with him in the wilderness. While Adam, the first Son of God, failed his test of obedience, here we have Jesus, who resists the temptation of Satan and remains faithful to God.

That certainly is a viable analysis of this passage... Another typology we can see here is that of a contrast and comparison between Jesus and the nation Israel... Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness appears to be symbolic to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness. Add to that the fact that all three O.T. passages that Jesus cites, all relate to Israel's failure.

1) Israel's faith was tested with hunger so that she would learn dependence on God...*but failed*...

Jesus depends wholly on God for his substance, quoting De. 8:3, "*Man does not live by bread alone...*"

2) Israel was commanded to worship God alone...*but turned to Idolatry*...

Jesus rejects the devil's offer of the kingdoms of the world, quoting De. 6:13 "*Worship God alone...*"

3) Israel often tempted God, provoking Him...

Jesus refuses to tempt God, quoting De. 6:16... "*Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God...*"

Whichever typology it is, (if either), the point is the same, *emphasizing the faithfulness and obedience of Jesus Christ to God the Father*...

**(Vs 1~4)** <sup>1</sup>And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. <sup>3</sup>And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, saying, *It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*

We are told that during those 40 days, Jesus ate nothing...and that at the end of those 40 days, he hungered. This reminds us of the humanness of Christ. Having a body liken unto ours, he too experienced the natural cravings and desires of this body, he felt pain, he too grew weary, etc... After fasting for 40 days, Jesus naturally *longed for* something to eat.

Now listen, I don't want you to miss this...here we get some insight as to how Satan works.

**First we see, his attacks are on the "desires of the flesh..."** His offers are tempting *because they promise to fulfill our needs and our desires*. He has answers to all your problems. He may provide "*quick fixes*" for our problems, but they often have "*long lasting Consequences.*" As God's children, we must show ourselves wise, and not allow ourselves to fall prey to his deceit.

**Secondly, his temptations are always directed at our weaknesses.** No doubt, after 40 days without food, Jesus was physically weak, mentally wore out. Here Satan takes advantage of these things, and attacks Jesus at his weakest and most vulnerable point.

The temptation here is to get Jesus to commit *the sin of pride...Self-Exaltation*. Satan tries to get Jesus to show His power, to exalt himself, showing that He is the Son of God.

This would be contrary to the way His Father had purposed in his coming into the world. In Philippians, we are told he humbled himself, relinquishing himself of his title, to take on the form of a man, a servant.

<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup>But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup>And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus came into the world as a “SERVENT”... He temporarily set aside His position as the creator of heaven and earth, laying aside His Kingly robe and crown, and took on the form of a man, and became a servant. Here, Satan tempts Him to show who He is by turning a rock into bread. But Jesus refuses...

<sup>4</sup>*It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*

His answer is aimed to declare *His total dependence* on His Father to supply His needs.

**Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 8:3...** <sup>1</sup>All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. <sup>2</sup>And thou shall remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou would keep his commandments, or no. <sup>3</sup>**And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knew not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.**

Moses declares that God led Israel in the wilderness for 40 years to humble them, to prove them... During that time he “suffered” them to hunger. Interesting thought, it means that God withheld provision from them, so that food was scarce...causing almost a famine as it were to come on the people. Remember, this was a test for them, to see how they would respond, “*what was in their heart...*” Well, we know how they responded...they gripped and complained, and argued with Moses accusing him of bringing them out there to die. They missed the whole point, they failed the test miserably... All they had to do, was to look to God, and call out to Him to provide their needs. He eventually provided food for them, notice, He wouldn’t let them starve to death. The whole point was to turn the hearts of the people to God, seeking Him to provide for their needs.

In Matthew 6, Jesus declared pretty much the same thing...

(Mt 6) <sup>25</sup>Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. **Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?**

Isn’t there more to LIFE than the food we eat and the cloths we put on?

<sup>26</sup>Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? <sup>27</sup>Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? <sup>28</sup>And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: <sup>29</sup>And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?* <sup>31</sup>Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup>(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. <sup>34</sup>Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

You can go 40 days without food, 7 days without water, 4 minutes without air...but not 1 second without God.