



LUKE

Luke 4- Jesus' Ministry Begins

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 4

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

Open: Think about a time when God was calling you to a new phase of life or ministry. What roadblocks or temptations did you face?

1. Read verses 1-30. What echoes of the story of Adam and Eve are seen in the temptation story in v.1-13? What is the nature of each temptation that Jesus faces from Satan?
2. In Israel, there had been other royal movements in Jesus' time, not only the well-known house of Herod but also other lesser-known figures who gathered followers and were hailed as kings, only to be cut down by Roman troops. There were many would-be prophets who promised to show God's saving power, but they did not last long. In contrast to these figures, how do the three temptations show what kind of messiahship Jesus was to pursue?
3. How do Jesus' listeners initially react in verse 22, when he begins his public ministry by quoting from Isaiah 61:1-2? Read Isaiah 61:1-3, and notice that he leave out the words about "the day of vengeance of our God". What does this tell you about his mission?
4. Why do the crowds get so upset when Jesus mentions in verse 25-27 that Elijah was sent to help non-Jewish people? How is this idea of grace for all people, even those that we disagree with or fight against, a challenge to our interests and agendas today?
5. Read verses 31-44. What astonished people about Jesus? Why was Jesus committed to spending most of his time on the move rather than staying in one place? How do these verses offer a taste of Jesus fulfilling the passage from Isaiah 61?

It is a central part of Christian vocation to learn to recognize the voices that whisper attractive lies, to distinguish them from the voice of God, and to use the simple but direct weapons provided in Scripture to rebut the lies with truth.

-NT Wright

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ We are unlikely to be tempted in exactly the same way as Jesus was, but every Christian will be tested at the points which matter most in his or her life and vocation. What are the most powerful temptations in your life? How can we learn to recognize and defeat the voices that whisper attractive lies to us?
- ☀ In what areas of your personal life or the world around you do you long to see the promises made in Isaiah 61 fulfilled by Jesus? Take some time to thank Jesus for the ways in which he has brought the passage to fulfillment. Then intercede for others who have not yet seen the same kind of healing, release, or redemption.

*this study is adapted from N.T. Wright's "For Everyone" Study Guide on Luke

[1] And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness [2] for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. [3] The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." [4] And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" [5] And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, [6] 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. [7] If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

[8] And Jesus answered him, "It is written,
"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

[9] 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, [10] for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,"

[11] and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

[12] And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" [13] And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

[14] And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. [15] And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

[16] And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. [17] And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

[18] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

[20] And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21] And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." [22] And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" [23] And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." [24] And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. [25] But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, [26] and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. [27] And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." [28] When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. [29] And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. [30] But passing through their midst, he went away.

[31] And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, [32] and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. [33] And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, [34] "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." [35] But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. [36] And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" [37] And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

[38] And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. [39] And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

[40] Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. [41] And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

[42] And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, [43] but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." [44] And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.