

## **Principles To Live By**

**Luke 4:1-13**

**Objective:** Teach each to use Scripture Principles in their lives to help them resist temptations.

**Reading:** Luke 4:1-13.

**Memory:** Luke 4:12, "...Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

**Introduction:**

1. Is life ever entirely at peace? There is always a struggle going on somehow. If not between people, then within a person. We are always at war with temptations! It seems like every thing about us is trying to tempt us to do wrong. TV. Advertisements, peer pressure, fears, lusts, the list is endless.

### **We need to learn some principles to help us resist sin.** (HOW?)

In Luke 4:1-13, we see even Jesus wrestling with temptations. Scripture tells us that (Jesus) ***"has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."*** (Hebrews 4:15).

In this section of Scripture, Satan is trying hard to get Jesus to succumb to a temptation. I would notice first of all, that Jesus relies intensively on a knowledge of Scripture as He resists the Wiles of Satan, not simply by memorizing Scripture, but by learning the true meaning and the true essence of life that they teach.

In resisting the temptations of Satan, Jesus reveals at least three divine truth principles that are reflected in the Scriptures He quotes. Jesus knew what was important and essential and real. Let's look at the three divine truth principles which enabled Jesus to avoid temptation (and therefore sin and death). If we will learn these three things which Scripture here presents, we also will do well and learn to overcome the temptations of Satan.

*When we face temptations, one thing we need to realize is that...*

**I. Life Consists Of More Than Physical Needs.** Luke 4:3-4, ***"The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' 'Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"***

A. There is a temptation to focus on our immediate physical needs.

1. We get hungry! We want nice clothes. We have a desire to feel comfortable, the to feel good, then to experience nice things. We are tempted to satisfy our fleshly desires.
2. If life was only physical, we should behave like the rest of the world; "reach for all the gusto!"
3. But life is more than physical. There is a Spiritual Reality.
4. In John 4:34, the disciples have gone into town to find food because everyone is hungry. When they get back Jesus is teaching the woman at the well and the townspeople and He is no longer hungry. ***"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.'*** The real essence of life is spiritual, NOT physical!
5. The Temptation is to worry about right now and worry about heaven later. But what happens after physical death? Then you face your Eternal Destination. Scripture teaches Heaven or Hell and NOW is the time to worry about where we are going. Later will be too late.
6. I also want to maximize pleasure in life; since life is more than physical, and extends into eternity, the best way to do that is by preparing to spend eternity in heaven as opposed to enjoying anything for a short time here only.

*This was not just a memory verse for Jesus; He knew and understood the concept, the spiritual issues inherent in the original Bible episode. The spirit of the matter.*

B. Look at the spirit of the passage Jesus quotes.

1. Deuteronomy 8:1-6, ***"Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD***

***your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup>Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him."***

2. God was teaching His people to be totally dependent on Him. God demonstrates to them His ability to provide - even out in the desert wilderness!
3. Does God allow then to suffer a little? (you bet!) does He have a reason for putting them through that experience? (You bet!)
4. Do hard times indicate that there is no God? (No. *He has a reason!*)
5. Might God sometimes humble us on purpose? (*You bet.*) For a reason? (*You bet.*)
6. Do you trust His providence even in your struggles, or do you center on your lack?
7. This principle is related in the New Testament; Hebrews 12:4-11, ***"In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."<sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup>Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."***
8. It seems miserable to force child to clean his/her room, but it is for their own good in long run.
9. It seems miserable to let them go half an hour without drink, but they develop patience.
10. Is there a temptation for you to steal / cheat for food? To lie to keep a job or get help?
11. Remember that life does not consist of food / drink / cloths / enjoyments. There is much more.

*The second principle comes out in the quote in verses 5-8. When we face struggles and temptations, we need to realize, that it is...*

## **II. It Is Essential To Give Complete Allegiance To God!**

Luke 4:5-8, ***"<sup>5</sup>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup>So if you worship me, it will all be yours."***

***<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"***

### **A. The temptation is to divide our allegiance.**

1. We want to have our cake and eat it too! We straddle the fence and try to serve God and a variety of other things.
2. We are tempted to devote ourselves to other things in order to get ahead in this world as well.
3. Folks say, I have to concentrate on my family right now; on my education right now, on my job right now, on my girlfriend right now. When I get everything else under control al I want, then I will concentrate on religion.
4. What allegiance to you give to another things in order to get what you want?
5. What allegiance do you rob from God in order to get nice things?
6. Are you are tempted to do whatever it takes to achieve a set goal? (Just for a little while?)
7. Maybe to get some nice physical things? To secure our pride. To secure our safety?
8. How often do we thin; "you deserve it!" You earned it" Why not!
9. "If you really devote yourself to something, you can do it!"
10. "Whatever you really put your mind to you can have!"
11. How dedicated are you to other things? Job / business / hobby / house? / marry rich / college / car? Do they compete with your allegiance to God? Maybe it is power, prestige, popularity!

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### **B. Look at the spirit of the passage Jesus quotes.**

1. Deuteronomy 6:11-15, "God is promising they will get; ***"...houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup>be careful that you do not forget the***

**LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>13</sup> Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. <sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land”.**

2. What sorts of other things were the people serving?
3. What sorts of things might we serve / idolize today?
4. Cling to Him. He is the only true God and Savior. The source of everything.
5. You can not share your allegiance to God with other things! God deserves and requires exclusive allegiance!
6. More than simply top priority - exclusive - everything else must fit with your allegiance to God!

*Finally, when we face struggles and temptations, we need to realize also, that...*

**III. It Is Wrong To Test God.** Luke 4:9-12, *“<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.””<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

A. There is a temptation to force God’s hand.

1. To see if God really would protect Him? To force God to act?
2. It is wrong to be presumptuous towards God. It is wrong to try to control or manipulate God. He is God and will not be manipulated.
3. It is wrong to presume upon God!
4. Deuteronomy 18:20, **“But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”** We do what God says, not vice versa!
5. God wants us for trust without presuming. Cf. Daniel 3:16-17, **“... Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you , O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”**
6. You are NOT in a position to presume or to force God to any sort of action. He is in charge, you and I are simply servants.
7. Ours is not the reason why, our is but to do and die. God is in charge and he will decide when He will act and how.
8. Are you willing to be committed to God even if He allows you to suffer in your service to Him?

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B. Get the deeper sense from the passage Jesus quotes.

1. Listen to Deuteronomy 6:16-17, **“You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. “You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you.**
2. (You diligently do what He says, not vice versa!)
3. Consider what happened at Massah. (Exodus 17:1-7). *“<sup>1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” <sup>3</sup>But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” <sup>4</sup>Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the place Massah? and Meribah? because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”*
  - a. Massah means “proof”. (**“they tested the lord, saying is the lord among us or not?”**)
  - b. Meribah means bitterness - because it was NOT good!
  - c. “Give me a miracle and I’ll believe in you.” “Show yourself to me ... then I will follow you.”

- d. THEY SOULD HAVE TRUSTED IN God and endured the struggle to demonstrate their trust!
- 4. How else might we try to test God today?
  - a. "Doesn't God care for His own?" "How can he let people suffer?"
  - b. I can quit my job / don't need to work / walk in front of a truck / machine gun / we only have budget of \$200 per week but lets obligate ourselves for \$800 and make God serve us.
- 5. Jesus did not enter into unnecessary hardships or persecutions, yet he willingly suffered those that were given to Him. So should we, and glorify God through them.
- 6. Are you prepared to glorify God in whatever situation you find yourself? Financially? Socially? Health-wise? Will you trust Him no matter what He asks you to face and to endure? Jesus would. Jesus did, in fact, and this is the issue at hand!

#### **So What?**

Jesus relied on knowledge obtained from God's Word in order to resist temptations. He had a grasp of the spirit of the Old Testament lessons so he found parallels between the recorded experiences of Israel, and His own struggles.

Jesus believed what He read from Scripture, He took it seriously, He took it to be truth and fact, and He used it to govern His life and guide His life's decisions. We need to do the same.

Are You really faithful and true to the Word, or do you believe it "sort of", follow it "sort of"? As we encounter trials, tribulations and temptations in our own lives, let's determine to live by these principles; Live by God's Word and Put God first in everything and to glorify God faithfully even in our struggles.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

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**Memory:** Luke 4:12

“...D\_n\_p\_t\_L\_y\_G\_t\_t\_t\_.”

### **We need to learn some principles to help us resist sin.**

Three truth principles which enabled Jesus to avoid temptation.

#### **I. Life Consists Of More Than Physical Needs.**

Luke 4:3-4

A. There is a temptation to focus on our immediate physical needs.

B. The spirit of the passage Jesus quotes.

Deuteronomy 8:1-6    Hebrews 12:4-11

#### **II. It Is Essential To Give Complete Allegiance To God!**

Luke 4:8,

A. The temptation is to divide our allegiance.

B. The spirit of the passage Jesus quotes.

Deuteronomy 6:11-15

#### **III. It Is Wrong To Test God.**

Luke 4:12,

A. There is a temptation to force God's hand.

Deuteronomy 18:20    Daniel 3:16-17

B. The spirit of the passage Jesus quotes.

Deuteronomy 6:16-17    Exodus 17:1-7

#### **So What?**

Live by God's Word, Put God first in everything and glorify God faithfully even in our struggles.