



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

A Champion...for You March 10, 2019

(Luke 4:1-13)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ² where 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 does not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ 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. ⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

1. **Icebreaker:** If you were choosing a “champion” who would fight your battles for you, what are some things you’d want your champion to be/possess?

2. Compare/contrast your “champion” description from question one with how we see Jesus in this account. What makes Jesus an unlikely champion here? What makes him the perfect champion for us in this battle?
3. Satan often “recycles” temptations. His first temptation (vs.3) has striking similarities to the temptation of Adam and Eve, and the temptation of the Israelites in the Wilderness. Why would food be a tempting thing for most people, including Jesus? How do Jesus’ circumstances here make his resistance even more amazing when compared to Adam and Eve?
4. Satan is a particularly crafty tempter. Comment on the particularly diabolical wisdom in the three different temptations Satan brings to attack Jesus.
5. The Scripture passages Jesus quotes in response to each temptation has particular significance. Read Deut. 8:2-3 (1st Temptation) Deut. 6:13-15 (2nd Temptation), Deut. 6:16/Ex. 17:7 (3rd Temptation). What do the contexts of the passages Jesus quotes add significance to his message?
6. **Agree/Disagree:** As true God, Jesus couldn’t have fallen into sin. Therefore, these temptations really weren’t all that difficult for him to resist.
7. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16.** How do these verses make it impossible for us to only see this account as self-help, or direction for resisting temptation?
8. It’s not the main focus, but there are things we can learn about resisting temptation from Jesus here. Give 2-3 takeaways you can apply to your own life of resisting temptation. How can you better put those things into practice in your life?