

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: LUKE 4

Scripture of Lesson: Luke's Gospel 4: 1-13

1. The significance of the Lord's temptation experience in the wilderness

a. Jesus proved that He is more powerful than the prince of this world.

- Satan overthrew our first parents in one attempt. But Jesus came out of this experience as the conqueror.

b. Being led into this experience as He commenced His public ministry, Jesus demonstrated how God's children can be conquerors of the flesh and the devil.

- He fasted 40 days just as Moses and Elijah did to prove the power of God in sustaining Him and giving Him the power to win over the flesh and the temptations from the devil [perhaps on Mt. Horeb].

2. Satan's tactics of temptation and our strategies of victory

a. Satan asked Jesus to re-prove that He was the Son of God [v. 3 "If you are the Son of God..."] after God's apparent affirmation of His favor and approval through his baptism event. Likewise, Satan asks children of God to outwardly prove to those around them they are the chosen ones of God in some flashy, worldly way. We prove this fact by living on the word of God and allowing it to show to others that God is living in us and giving growth to our spiritual being richly.

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. [Deut. 8:3]

b. Satan asks us to doubt God's power to sustain us just as the people of Israel demanded to know if God could give them 'meat' in the wilderness after they tasted a bounteous supply of fresh water in the same situation.

Yes, they spoke against God: They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?" Therefore the Lord heard this and was furious; so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel. [Psalm 78:19-21; Numbers 11: 1-35]

c. Satan lures us to his side by giving false allusion and promise of world's power and riches, which he does not own. He lures us to shady, dark life to facilitate hiding of our sins. [v. 6-7]

- Jesus is the 'life' and 'light' of this world; there is only spiritual decay, suffocation and gradual death with Satan. Children of God observe and experience God's glory and power on the earth and are not deceived by Satan's allusions and false promises.

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." [John 8:12]

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [Eph 6:12]

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [1 John 1: 6]

- God is on the throne of the whole universe; God allows Satan to control some aspects to try and test people's hearts but has never granted him full power of the world's affairs. Satan has control over the

hearts and minds of those people who have gone over to his side and thus attempt to drive the world into chaos and darkness. But, children of God are convinced of God's dominion and see affirmations of His rule.

The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. [Psalm 103: 19]

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. [Psalm 145: 13]

d. Satan tempts us to doubt God's love for us and to want to test God's sustenance and care for us.

- When we are in hard-pressed difficulties, Satan puts into our minds doubts about God's interest and care for us and cause us to test it, sometimes by intentionally making foolish decisions or jumping into dangerous environments purposefully. On the other hand, God wants us to wait patiently for His salvation and witness His saving power and love for us.

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. [Exodus 14:13]

O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." [2 Chron. 20:12]

You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." [2 Chron. 20:17-18]

- Children of God worship God and His Son only and do not cater to the desires of the flesh, not follow the whims of this world and not love darkness in exchange for temporary pleasures or compensations.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. [2 Peter 1: 2-4]

3. Application to us

a. See God's power and glory, which are evident on His creation today and trust in His sustenance and power for His children.

b. Do not seek worldly ways to prove we are His children. Rather, live out the Christian values as affirmation of God's mighty power to save and rule.

c. Honor God only and do not be swayed or lured by Satan's false promises and allurements.

Discussion topics:

1. Share with the group how you overcame temptations and came out triumphant.

2. Share with the group what trials/ temptations are troubling your soul today.