

The Temptation of the Last Adam (Part 3)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Luke 4:1-13

The night before He went to the cross, Jesus prayed in **John 17:17** — "*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*" (**Colossians 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:15**). Sanctification is the Father's will for your life (**1 Thessalonians 4:3-7**). Not just that you would be saved, but that you would be set apart for the Father's redemptive mission, made holy, conformed to Christ, and the **means** (tool, instrument, standard) is the Word.

Before Jesus ever prayed this prayer for us, He lived it Himself. Filled with the Spirit. Led by the Spirit. Answering with the Word. Will surrendered to the Father. **Luke 4** is **John 17:17, 19**, embodied. The wilderness temptation in **Luke 4** is the prayer made visible.

I. The First Offer – Provision (Luke 4:3-4)

- A. **Surface:** Bread From Stones – Eat – You are Starving
- B. **Actual Offer:** *Satan's craft is always to take a legitimate appetite and attach it to an illegitimate path. Use your sonship to meet your own legitimate needs outside the Father's provision and timing. (Hunger, Thirst, Sex)*
- C. The offer is deeper than just eating.
 - 1. It is an offer of self-sufficiency, to live on your own timeline, without waiting on God.
 - 2. It is an offer to step out of the Father's care and provide for yourself.
- D. Examples:
 - 1. Adam: (**Genesis 3:6**) *Genesis 3:6, So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*
 - 2. Israel: **Deuteronomy 8:3**, *And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*
 - 3. Timeless temptation (**1 John 2:16**, *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*), the desires of the flesh (natural, good, & right) within the boundaries of God's law.
 - (1) **Job 23:12**, *I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food. Psalm 119:11, I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
 - (2) **Matthew 5:6**, *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
 - (3) **Isaiah 55:1–2**, *Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.*
 - (4) **John 4:34**, *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."*

II. The Second Offer – Power (Luke 4:5-8)

Surface: All the kingdoms of the world, right now, with one act of worship.

- B. **Actual offer:** *The crown without the cross. The inheritance without the wrath-cup. Messiah-ship without Gethsemane. He is being offered what is already His — on a shortcut route that bypasses the cross.*
- C. Satisfying the "lust of the eyes," in **1 John 2:16**, through immediate gratification and a shortcut to "glory."
 - 1. The Son's Inheritance (Psalm 2)
 - a) **Psalm 2:7–8**, *I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.*
 - 2. The Believer's Inheritance (**Ephesians 1:11–14**, *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having*

been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- a) God Himself (Psalm 16:5; Psalm 73:26; Deut 18:2)
- b) Joint heirship with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- c) The new creation (Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 5:5)
- d) Glorification (1 John 3:2)
- e) The Kingdom (Matthew 25:34; 1 Peter 1:4)

III. The Third Offer – Purpose (Luke 4:9-12)

- A. **Surface offer:** Jump. Angels will catch you. **Psalm 91:11-12** says so. Quoted exactly.
- B. **Actual offer:** *Force the Father's hand. Demand a visible vindication of your sonship on your own timing and your own terms.*
- C. Notice **Genesis 3:6** and **1 John 2:16** again. “a tree to be desired to make one wise” and “the pride of life.”
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 6:16**, “*You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.*”
 - 2. **Exodus 17:1-7**, Here is what Israel had seen: The 10 Plagues, The Passover, The pillar of cloud and fire, The Red Sea had parted, Bitter water made sweet Marah, Bread from Heaven, Quail.
 - a) **Psalm 95:8**, *Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,*
 - b) **1 Corinthians 10:9**, *We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,*
- D. We bargain with God. “If you are real, do this.” “If you really loved me, you would give me that.” We test Him with reckless choices and expect rescue. We demand signs. We treat His silence as betrayal. We make our faith conditional on His performance.

IV. The Real Temptation to All Temptation - Be the Son without submitting to the Father.

- A. The offers:
 - 1. Bread: Provision without the Father’s providing (Anxiety – be anxious for nothing)
 - 2. Kingdoms: Inheritance without the Father’s path. (Compromise – bow a little, gain a lot)
 - 3. False Faith: God’s Purpose without the Father’s timing (Presumption – make God prove Himself on your terms)
- B. We do not stand in the wilderness on our own. We stand in union with the One who has already stood there for us. His obedience is not just our model. **It is our righteousness, credited to every soul who trusts Him.**
- C. Where you have failed every wilderness — and you have — He passed every one. Where you have taken bread, bowed for kingdoms, demanded vindication — He refused them all. For you.
- D. That is the gospel of the wilderness. Not “*be like Jesus.*” But “*be united to Jesus.*” And then — by His Spirit, His Word, His indwelling life — fight from His victory, not for your own.