

## Lesson 4

## Luke 4

## The Beginning of Public Life

**Note:** *All three synoptic gospels present Jesus and his temptations in the desert wilderness, but only Matthew and Luke describe them in detail.*

1. Who led Jesus into the desert and for what purpose? (Luke 4:1-2)
2. Why do you think the devil waited forty days before asking Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread, and do you think it was a good strategy? (Luke 4:2)
3. What was the second temptation Jesus faced and what might be a comparable temptation for us today? (Luke 4:5-7)
4. In the third temptation, the text says the devil took Jesus into Jerusalem and put him on the pinnacle of the temple. (Luke 4:9-12)
  - a. What does the devil ask Jesus to do? Why?
  - b. What would such a stunt prove?
5. Notice that in reply to each temptation, Jesus does not personally respond, but simply quotes scripture. How is that a hint to us in how to respond when we are tempted, especially when we try to find reasons to argue with the tempter? (Luke 4:4-13)

**Note:** *After an intense time of fasting, testing, and submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned to Galilee to fulfill his calling. These rhythms of activism and contemplation, engagement and withdrawal resonate throughout the life of Jesus. (Luke 4:1-13)*

6. Luke and Matthew include three temptations.
  - a. What do you think was the purpose of these three specific stories of temptations in their gospels?
  - b. Why do you think God allows us to experience temptation?
  - c. Where can we find “deserts” in our lives today?
7. What did Jesus say to the people in the Nazareth synagogue after reading from the Book of Isaiah, and how did they respond to his words? (Luke 4:20-22)
8. How did Jesus respond to the people in his hometown synagogue who wanted to see him perform a miracle, and what was the people’s response to his comments? (Luke 4:23-29)
9. What was the significance of Jesus telling his neighbors the stories about God’s blessings on non-Jews, like the widow in Sidon and Naaman the Syrian? (Luke 4:25-28)
10. Who was this “Simon” whose house Jesus visited after leaving the Capernaum synagogue? (Luke 4:38; Matt 4:18)

***If you would like a challenge?***

11. How was the teaching of Jesus different from the way the rabbis normally taught? (Luke 4:31-32) Was the difference significant?