

Round One: Fight!

(Luke 4:1-13)

Introduction

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

1. "Temptation is bait on a hook." [Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies against Satan's Devices*].
 - a. The bait is whatever will entice you to take a bite.
 - b. The hook (sin) reels you in toward death.

Jesus was tempted [Luke 4:1-2a]

1. Jesus prepares Himself for His public ministry & to face His enemy:
 - a. [1] Jesus relies on the power of the Spirit for strength: "full of the Holy Spirit... led by the Spirit..."
 - b. [2] Jesus fasts for 40 days in intimacy with His Father.
 - i. Fast: Abstain from food (something of the flesh) for a time, for deep prayer to draw closer to God.
 - c. Significance of 40 days:
 - i. Reminiscent of Moses & Elijah's 40-day fasts [cf. Exo 34:28; Deut 9:9]
 - ii. Reminds us that Israel wandered in the wilderness 40 years, and yielded to temptations, but Jesus [true Israel] wanders in the wilderness 40 days, and triumphs over temptations.
2. Satan comes to bait the hook *continually* for 40 days.
 - a. Jesus faced all the temptations you & I constantly battle against
 - b. Culmination of final 3 temptations: Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life [cf. 1 John 2:16]
 - i. The same temptations Adam & Eve faced: "Saw that the tree was good for food, a delight to the eyes, & to be desired to make one wise..." [cf. Gen 3:6]

Lust of the flesh [Luke 4:2b-4]

1. [2-3] Temptation: To use His power to meet His physical desire, instead of trusting God to supply His needs.
 - a. Temptations come from bodily appetites, urges, pleasures, which are enjoyable & not necessarily evil.
 - b. Sin: When a good thing is appropriated in the wrong way, taking a shortcut apart from God.
2. [3] The real issue: An attack on Jesus' identity. "*If* you are the Son of God..."
 - a. Who you are determines how you live.
 - b. When tempting you with desires of the flesh, Satan attacks your identity as a child of God.
 - i. He uses urges of the flesh to convince you that you're not.
3. [4] Jesus' response is from the Word of God, your weapon for battle against Satan & temptations.
 - a. Application: To resist temptation, know Scriptures well.
4. Jesus' Response: [Deut. 8:3] For the child of God, there's more to life than satisfying momentary needs of the flesh.
 - i. Life is about trusting & obeying God / His Word [cf. Matt 4:4].
 - ii. Jesus knows His identity as a Son who is loved & provided for by His Father.
 - b. Application: To resist temptation, live out of your identity as a child of God in Christ & in His Word.
 - i. Desires of the flesh are only a small part of who you are.
 - ii. You are more than just your fleshly desires; your identity in Christ is the real you & is greater.
 - iii. Out of your new identity, live a new life.

Lust of the eyes [Luke 4:5-8]

1. [5-6] Temptation: To seek prosperity as your priority.
 - a. [5] Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world: "I see it; I want it; I deserve it."
 - b. [6] Satan offers to give it all to you, but there's a catch...
2. [7] The real issue: Worship someone/something other than God.
 - a. Sin: Seeking prosperity as a priority above God, or as a shared priority with God.
 - b. Everything we seek/do is an act of worship [cf. 1 Cor 10:31]
 - c. Taking God from the position of priority/worship & sharing it with someone/something else.
3. [8] Jesus' response: [Deut 6:13] My eyes, life, priority, worship go to My Father alone.
 - a. What do you keep your eyes on? What do you serve as top priority? What do you worship?
 - b. Application: Ask yourself: Am I making this thing I see/seek a priority over God? Does it bring glory to God?

Boastful pride of life [Luke 4:9-12]

1. [9-11] Temptation: To prove that He's really the Son of God through His special position as Son.
 - a. [9] Demand supernatural protection; test God; force His hand to prove Him trustworthy.
 - b. Sin: Don't trust God for who He is.
 - c. [10-11] Satan's tool: He twists Scriptures to deceive you.
 - i. He'll lead you to rationalize with out-of-context verses to get your way.
 - d. Application: Know your Bible, because Satan sure does.
2. [12] Jesus' response from the Word: I already know My Father & His character, and I will not test Him.
 - a. [Deut 6:16] As they entered the Promised Land, Israel was instructed not to test God because they knew / experienced Him, but often forgot His goodness & faithfulness.
 - b. Application: Instead of testing/distrusting God, when we know His identity through the Word, we'll trust His goodness & remember His faithfulness.

Conclusion: Ready for battle

1. [13] Satan always waits for the next opportune time to tempt you.
 - a. We need to be prepared: Through the Word, prayer, repentance, & the support of community / accountability.
2. Whatever tempts you, Jesus faced it too.
 - a. Jesus understands, relates, and is able to help [cf. Heb 2:17-18].
 - b. Application: You can turn to Jesus when tempted because He's been there & can deliver you from it.