

## Reflection Questions: Luke 4:1-13

For the message, "The Temptation of Jesus" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 3, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 4:1-13

**1** And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness **2** for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. **3** The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." **4** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" **5** And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, **6** and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. **7** If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." **8** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

**9** And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' **11** and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" **12** And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

**13** And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**A summary of the message:** Having been declared to be the Son of God at his baptism, Jesus is now led into a time of testing before he officially begins his ministry. During this time in the wilderness, an evil, malevolent being called the devil seeks to cast doubt on Jesus' identity as the Son of God by luring him into temptation. Jesus proves his allegiance to God and his purposes by successfully defeating temptation. Therefore, he can serve not only as our example, but he can actually be our Savior, "one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet was without sin" (Hebrews 2:18).

### **Bottom Line:**

- Before God asks you to battle any temptation, He invites you to grasp the significance of Jesus battling temptation for you.
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### **Let's get started with our initial impressions....**

- What grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

## **QUESTIONS**

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- *At stake in the temptation of Jesus is the whole plan of God's salvation.* How would you unpack this statement, or explain it to someone wondering what the significance of the temptation of Jesus was all about?
- How does this text help me to understand the how the good news of Jesus is good news for me personally? How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption? (see Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16 for further thought.)

### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- How does this text help us to see/ understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?
- As a community of faith, how should we take seriously the the existence of supernatural evil (that is, spiritual beings, or fallen angels known as demons)? How could we explain this to a skeptical world?

### **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- Since Jesus is the only one who has battled temptation perfectly, he can be our Savior. He is the perfect Savior who, "because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). How might this inform *our posture* towards those who do not yet believe or embrace the gospel of Jesus?

## **Key Quotes from the Message:**

- Ps. 16:11, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fulness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
- Rebecca Reynolds, *Courage, Dear Heart*, "Temptation works to pull us from greater joys into lesser joys that fade—joys that can never satisfy us as God's presence can."
- 1 Corinthians 10:13, No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

## **CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer?