

Not Your Hometown Hero (Luke 4:1-44)

Tempted, rejected, misunderstood. His hometown, so angry over what he said, wanted to kill him. That's how Jesus started things out. He wasn't a hometown hero but he was God's anointed – chosen and sent to intervene, chosen and sent to interfere with this broken world. What did that intervention look like then and what does it look now?

1. TEMPTED | Wilderness showdown (Luke 4:1-15)

Two stories to keep in mind: 1. Adam = the first “son of God” failed.

2. Israel = declared God's “firstborn” (Exodus 4:22) also failed.

Temptation #1 = YOU CAN'T TRUST GOD

V3 “IF you are the son of God...” Really? Prove it! Demonstrate your supposed power.

Why “turn this stone to bread?” Israel grumbled for bread! They lost sight of God's faithfulness to meet their every need. *“It is written...”* Deuteronomy 8:3

Temptation #2 = POSITION + POWER IN EXCHANGE FOR WORSHIP

“It is written...” Deuteronomy 6:13

Temptation #3 = GOD IS YOURS TO CONTROL

“Make God do your bidding like a genie in a bottle!” Israel put God to the test again and again!

“It is written...” Deuteronomy 6:16

How will *you* stand your ground? Have you learned to recognize seductive voices and attractive lies for what they really are? Have you learned to take up the “sword of the Spirit”? Ephesians 6:17

2. SENT | Hometown announcement (Luke 4:16-30)

Jesus reads Isaiah 61:1-2 + 58:6

“This anointed one Isaiah speaks of – I'm him! I'm that guy!” = THE day of salvation has begun!

Is 61:1 *“He (Yahweh) has sent me to bind up the broken hearted”*

Jesus is God's intervention, his interference with this broken world.

He's come to loosen the power of sin, shame and evil over our lives.

In response to their unbelief he brings up two stories involving two of their greatest prophets:

1 Kings 17:8-16 = Elijah sent to a foreign widow of Zarephath – a gentile (foreigner)!

2 Kings 5:1-14 = Naaman (Syrian Commander) - enemy! goes to Elisha for healing of leprosy.

A little preview of the broader mission of the gospel to the nations.

3. AT WORK | In Capernaum as it is in Heaven (Luke 4:31-44)

The anointed one is at work setting captives free!

The Kingdom of God = the rule of God in and through his Son was breaking into Capernaum / breaking into their present-day experience! *“In St. Pete as it is in heaven!”* break into our present-day experience.

Jesus was TEMPTED for you and me.

Jesus was SENT for you and me.

Jesus was AT WORK for you and me. How personal are you taking this?

QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus' temptation / testing reflect the story of Adam and Eve and the story of Israel?
2. Describe each temptation Jesus faced.
3. What is significant about the way Jesus defeated Satan (the devil) in this temptation story?
4. How can we learn to recognize *and defeat* the voices that whisper attractive lies to us?
5. Jesus begins his public ministry in his hometown by quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 (Luke 4:18-19). Walk through Luke 4:18-19 and describe what the “anointed one” is called to do.
6. In Luke 4:25-17 Jesus points out two stories of old involving two great prophets. Elijah was sent to help a widow – but not a Jewish one. And Elisha healed the leprosy of the commander of the enemy army! Why did this make the crowds so upset?
7. How is the idea of grace for all people, even those we disagree with, a challenge to our agendas?
8. How do verse 31-44 offer a taste of Jesus fulfilling the passage in Isaiah he quoted in Nazareth?
9. Take some time to pray *“Your kingdom come; you will be done! In St. Pete as it is in heaven. Jesus, break into our lives and the lives of those around us! Intervene, interfere, bring freedom from the power of sin, shame and evil!”*