

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

March 10, 2024

The Gospel of Luke | Jesus in the Wilderness Pt. 2

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S U M M A R Y

This week we continued looking at Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. We saw how Jesus' second temptation mirrored Adam and Eve's in the Garden of Eden, and how Jesus is the faithful son of God who resisted the temptation to power.

R E A D

Luke 4:1-13 | Psalm 8 | Hebrews 4:14-16

Pause. Take time to prayerfully consider what has been read.

D I S C U S S

- 1) Do you consider it sinful to be tempted to do something wrong?

Read Psalm 8.

- 2) What do you see of the nature of humanity in this Psalm?
- 3) The devil says "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." In light of Psalm 8, do you think that this was a rightful claim of the devil? Why or why not?

In his book, *In the Name of Jesus*, Henri Nouwen writes, "What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life."

- 4) How do you see this juxtaposition of power and love in your own life?
- 5) Where does this temptation towards power easily flair up?
- 6) How has someone walking in love instead of power been good news to you?

- 7) If knowing and memorizing Scripture is digging a well for the Spirit to draw from in your life, what passages have been important in your life so far? What would be helpful for you today?

Read Hebrews 4:15-16

- 8) What do you think Jesus posture towards you is when you are tempted?
- 9) How do you attempt to face temptation out of your own strength?
- 10) How do you lean into the mercy and grace of Jesus when it comes to temptation?

R E S P O N D

Out of the sermon and discussion, what have you learned and how do you need to practice this in your life this week?

*Share how the Spirit is inviting you to respond today and the week to come – to **be with** Jesus, to **become like** Jesus, or to **do what** Jesus does.*

P R A Y

Pray this prayer from Eugene Peterson's "Praying with Jesus":

Lord help me to choose love over power and control, to lift others up and not push them down. Give me patience that love requires and not to try and force your hand or my own way through impatience. Help me to resist temptation and the shame it can bring by keeping me turning to you for your help, mercy and grace, in my time of need. Amen.

Take time to wait and pray together. What is Jesus praying for? Come into agreement with His prayers.

