

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 4

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 4 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 4:1-13

What Old Testament story (or stories) come to mind when you hear “led,” “wilderness,” and “forty,” “hungry” and “test”?

Jesus is Himself experiencing this part of Israel's story. Luke's audience is wondering how he will face these private temptations that kinda sound similar to the ones the Israelites faced long before.

Chapter 3 started with Luke showing us the contrast of Jesus' upside-down kingdom with the human kingdoms of his day. And they seemed very powerful.

Luke tells us in chapter 4 that there is another ruler who is reigning over all the kingdoms of the world.

If you haven't already underlined Jesus' upside-down kingdom comments in this story (in purple), do so now. You can underline the temptation, too, to show the contrast between them.

This is the private confrontation between Jesus and darkness. The devil is so subtle. Why do you think the devil is tempting Jesus with...

1. *turning stones into bread?*
2. *gaining the authority and splendor of the kingdoms of the world?*
3. *making a dramatic jump at the temple?*

Who gave the devil the kingdoms of the world's authority and splendor anyway? Any thoughts?

Jesus' responses are quotes from Moses' speech in Deuteronomy. Can I ask you to take some time and read those in context? Luke records a piece of the quote, expecting his readers know the story around it: Deuteronomy 6:1-17 and 8:1-11 where Moses is reminding Israel of their covenant with God just before they enter the Promised Land.

Did the Israelites listen to Moses? (Think of Judges)

Does Jesus, Israel's Messiah, obey?

The devil's quoting Scripture kinda makes me laugh because he slams on the brakes. He does NOT to bring up the rest of the quote. Read Psalm 91 (remember it from Luke ch 1?).

Which verses does the devil quote? Why would he not like the next verse? Is there a verse in Genesis 3 that might sound too close to that verse from Psalm 91 for his comfort?

Luke 4:14-30

Jesus has become well known as a teacher, and he's even performed miracles in Capernaum. Now he's back in his hometown. Little podunk Nazareth now has a claim to fame. Everyone knows Jesus is destined for greatness, maybe even to be God's Messiah who will smash their enemies. The people of Nazareth are excited and have great expectations of what "their Jesus" will do.

It's the Sabbath, and they hand him the scroll of Isaiah. Jesus unrolls it and begins to read Isaiah 61:1-2...well, part of 2. Then he just stops. Strange...

Look up Isaiah 61. What part of Isaiah 61:2 does he not read? This is a huge clue that helps us understand why those in the synagogue get so incredibly and violently angry later.

If you keep reading Isaiah 61, you'll notice that this is one Scripture that has shaped the Jews understanding of what the Messiah will do...destroy the enemies who have mistreated them. Indeed, Jesus is going to do just that, but the enemies Jesus will defeat are sin, the devil, death...not people. In fact, his way of dealing with human enemies is to save them from their sins and transfer them from the kingdom of darkness into members of his glorious kingdom. So Jesus speaks with gracious words...and it's obvious to the Jews that those words of unmerited favor are not just meant for them.

Put yourself in the Nazarenes' shoes. How do you think they felt about Jesus stopping before he read the part in Isaiah 61 about their enemies?

He hands back the scroll and sits down (that's what rabbis do when they are ready to teach.)

Jesus mentions 2 Old Testament stories of amazing miracles. Do you think the widow he mentioned was Jewish? Her story is in I Kings 17...and is SO good!

How about Naaman from Syria? Is he Jewish? (His story is in 2 Kings 5...again SO good!)

The Nazarenes got so angry they tried to kill Jesus. How else might they have responded?

Personal question for us modern day Nazarenes: Are there times when you are reading the Bible and want to say, "Jesus, I wish you hadn't said _____. " What are those things?

Luke 4:31-44

Why were the Jews amazed at Jesus' teaching (v. 32)?

Again, this is a sign of the clash of the kingdom of this world (where leaders like Caesar, governors and high priest...and the devil/demons...think they are in control) with Jesus' upside-down kingdom. Look to see who is the first in Luke to claim to have authority (4:6.)

Throughout chapter 4, what do the devil and the demons all point out (vv. 3, 9, 34, 41)?

What does Jesus use to get the demons to submit to him? (Hint: v. 36)

How is this like God in Genesis 1?

What will Jesus not allow the demons to do? Why? (v. 41)