

## Tested, Anointed, and Rejected

### Verses 1–2— *Led by the Spirit, Into the Fire*

*“Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.” (Luke 4:1–2 NKJV)*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, had just experienced a powerful moment—His baptism, the Father’s voice, the Spirit descending like a dove. But the next place the Spirit leads Him is not into celebration—but into *testing*.

#### Personal Application:

The wilderness often follows the mountaintop. Don’t be surprised when spiritual highs are followed by seasons of testing. The same Spirit who fills you may lead you into a place where your heart is refined and your trust in God is proven.

### Verses 3–4— *Temptation #1: Use God’s Power for Self*

*“If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”*

Jesus had fasted for forty days. He was starving. Satan tempts Him to use divine power to satisfy His physical craving. But Jesus refuses.

*“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”*

#### Application:

Temptation often comes when we are weak. Satan whispers, *“You deserve this.”* But Jesus reminds us—life isn’t sustained by bread alone, but by God’s Word. Our deepest hunger must be for Him.

### Verses 5–8— *Temptation #2: Power Without the Cross*

Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He will just bow down. No suffering. No cross. Just one moment of compromise.

But Jesus responds:

*“You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”*

#### Application:

The enemy always offers shortcuts—glory without obedience, success without surrender. But the cost is always your soul. Worship belongs to God alone. Don’t trade your eternal calling for temporary power.

### Verses 9–12— *Temptation #3: Prove Yourself Spectacularly*

Satan misuses Scripture, urging Jesus to throw Himself off the temple to prove He’s the Son of God.

Jesus answers:

*“It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”*

**Application:**

Faith doesn't demand signs to believe. Don't test God with reckless choices, expecting Him to bail you out. Trust means believing even when He doesn't perform for us.

**Verse 13— *Temptation Paused, Not Finished***

*"Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."*

Temptation is rarely a one-time event. The enemy looks for moments of weakness. But every time we stand firm, we grow stronger.

**Verses 14–15— *Power and Popularity Begin to Rise***

Jesus returns in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spreads. He teaches in the synagogues, and people speak well of Him.

But this popularity will be short-lived—especially when truth confronts pride.

**Verses 16–21— *The Scroll, the Seat, the Shock***

Jesus goes to His hometown of Nazareth and reads from Isaiah 61:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor..."*

He stops mid-verse, before the part about judgment, and declares:

*"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

**Application:**

Jesus announced His mission: healing the brokenhearted, setting captives free, opening blind eyes. That's the heart of the gospel—freedom and restoration. And He says, "This is happening now."

Are you one of the spiritually poor, broken, bound, or blind? Then His ministry is for you.

**Verses 22–30— *From Amazement to Outrage***

At first, the people marvel. But when Jesus reminds them that God's mercy once extended to *Gentiles* (like the widow in Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian), their national pride is shattered—and they turn violent.

They try to throw Him off a cliff, but Jesus walks away untouched.

**Application:**

Truth is offensive to pride. Jesus doesn't perform on demand or flatter egos. Sometimes the hardest place to speak truth is among those who think they know you best. Stay faithful anyway.

**Verses 31–37— *Authority Over Darkness***

In Capernaum, Jesus teaches with authority, unlike the scribes. He commands an unclean spirit, and it obeys instantly. The crowd is amazed.

**Application:**

Jesus doesn't just speak truth—He wields spiritual authority. No long rituals, no dramatic ceremonies. Just a word, and darkness flees. The same power is available to us through the Holy Spirit.

**Verses 38–39— *Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law***

Jesus enters Peter's house and heals his mother-in-law, who immediately begins serving. Luke, being a physician, notes she had a high fever.

**Application:**

Jesus not only has power over the spiritual realm, but over sickness and suffering. And often, healing leads to service. She got up and used her strength for others.

**Verses 40–44— *Compassion Without Exhaustion***

As the sun sets, crowds bring the sick and demon-possessed. Jesus heals each one. But the next morning, He withdraws to a solitary place to pray.

Though the people beg Him to stay, He says:

*"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."*

**Application:**

Even with endless need around Him, Jesus stayed focused on His mission. Compassion must be led by calling. Rest is not selfish—it's essential to sustainable ministry.

**Final Reflection:**

Luke 4 shows us a Savior who resisted temptation, announced His ministry, stood firm under rejection, walked in power, and stayed faithful to His calling.

He still does. And He invites you to follow Him—filled, led, and empowered by the same Holy Spirit.