

• LESSON 5 (January 31) • Luke 4 • Jesus is Tempted and Begins His Ministry

1. Jesus was “tempted by the devil” (4:1). Who is this tempter? What does “devil” mean?
2. “The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread’” (4:3). How would you describe this temptation, in your own words? And what can we learn from Jesus’ response (4:4)?
3. “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. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours” (4:5-7). How would you describe this temptation, in your own words? And what can we learn from Jesus’ response (4:8)?
4. “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone’” (4:9-11). How would you describe this temptation, in your own words? And what can we learn from Jesus’ response (4:12)?
5. “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time” (4:13). How should we look at the last phrase of that verse? What is Luke communicating?
6. In the Nazareth synagogue (4:16-20), Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2. What is he claiming by telling the crowd in Luke 4:21, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing”?
7. “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown” (4:24). What did Jesus mean?
8. What is Jesus implying in his references to the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian (4:25- 27) and why did the synagogue crowd react so violently (4:28-30)?
9. In Luke 4:31-41, what do the demons know with complete certainty? What were the implications for the people of Jesus’ day? And the implications today? Consider also James 2:18-19.
10. “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God...” (4:42-44). What did Jesus mean?