

## Sermon Notes

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

David Renwick -- September 15, 2019

### Genesis 3:2-4

The serpent said to the woman, ‘***Did God say***, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ***but God said***, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘***You will not die***.

### Luke 3:21-23

When Jesus . . . had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven, “**You are *my Son*, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.**” <sup>23</sup>Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

### Luke 4:1-13

**Jesus**, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led **by the Spirit** in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted\* by the **devil**. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

[\* the Greek word for “tempt” is the same as the word for “test”]

### TEMPTATION/DISTRACTION I. “Salvation by Bread”

<sup>3</sup>The **devil** said to him, “**If you are *the Son of God***, command this stone to become **a loaf of bread.**” <sup>4</sup>**Jesus** answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

### TEMPTATION/DISTRACTION II. “Salvation by Politics”

<sup>5</sup>Then the **devil** led him up and showed him in an instant **all the kingdoms of the world**. <sup>6</sup>And the **devil** said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>**Jesus** answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

### TEMPTATION/DISTRACTION III. “Salvation by Spectacular Entertainment”

<sup>9</sup>Then the **devil** took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the **pinnacle of the temple**, saying to him, “**If you are *the Son of God***, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup>and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>12</sup>**Jesus** answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>When the **devil** had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

### TEMPTATION/DISTRACTION IV & V (Simultaneous):

- **To whose Word/Voice do we really listen and respond?**
- **Who are we? OR, Whose “daughter or son” are we?**

### Luke 4:16-30

<sup>16</sup>When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, **he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom**. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place (61:1-2) where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>“*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup>**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “*Is not this Joseph’s son?*”**

<sup>23</sup>He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup>And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

- <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them ***except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon***.
- <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed ***except Naaman the Syrian***.”

<sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue **were filled with rage**.

<sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

<sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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Many have questioned the existence of **a personal devil** and look upon him as merely a symbol of the total sin of the human race. No proof for or against such a view may be given. **But, may it not be that “belief in the devil” may solve more problems than it creates?** For example, in spite of the good-will and best efforts of responsible leaders, and the almost universal longing for peace on the part of peoples of all lands, *human society precariously balances on the verge of self-destruction*. Is it not the height of naïveté to account for this either (1) by mere human stupidity and perverseness, or (2) by the evil designs of a few wicked leaders? (In any event) it is plain that Jesus believed in the reality of the Devil.

Donald G. Miller. Luke: The Layman’s Bible Commentary, p.51.