

INVESTIGATIVE BIBLE DISCUSSION

Luke 4:1-13

[1] Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, [2] where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

[3] The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

[4] Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”

[5] The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. [6] And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. [7] So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

[8] Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

[9] The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. [10] For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; [11] they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

[12] Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

[13] When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Questions

1. Highlight the main and minor characters
2. Where or when does the story take place?
3. What are the key events, activities or ideas presented in this passage?
4. How did the characters respond to Jesus personally, to what he said, or to what they saw?
5. How is Jesus described (by himself or others, claims made, character traits displayed)?
6. What values were taught/demonstrated by Jesus?
7. What truths/principles, were taught or demonstrated by Jesus?
8. What conclusions or observations can you draw?

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BACKGROUND

Jesus began his public ministry at about the age of thirty. Prior to that time he lived with his earthly parents, Joseph and Mary, in the town of Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter so Jesus would have learned the trade as well.

The incident in the desert came early in Jesus' public ministry. He had been in the area of the Jordan River where John the Baptist ministered. There John introduced Jesus to the crowds as the "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

KEY WORDS

Devil: Chief of the fallen spirits. Chief adversary of God and man. Also called Satan.

Jordan: Only large flowing body of water in Israel. Connects the Sea of Galilee with the Dead Sea.

Lord: Expresses a varied degree of honor, dignity, and majesty

Scripture: Collection of holy, inspired writings

Son of God: Term used to designate his coequal, eternal deity, and yet human nature.