

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 06

Luke records that Jesus was baptized along with all the people. Matthew notes the exchange between John and Jesus: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.”

Explaining what it means to “fulfill all righteousness,” the author of Hebrews writes: “Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

In this lesson, we will examine what it means to be tempted by the devil, not only looking at the temptations of Jesus but also those of Adam and Eve and the nation of Israel after their deliverance from Egypt.

Before you begin your study, will you pause to thank the Lord for His willingness to take on our humanity that He might atone for our sin, destroy the works of the devil and help us when we are tempted? Ask Him to give you insight and understanding as you study His Word.

The Temptation of Jesus

1. Read Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 1:12-13. What observations can you make from these passages?

2. Use your dictionary to define:
 - A. Tempt

 - B. Test

3. From Genesis 3:1-20, Matthew 4:3, John 8:42-44, 2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 Thessalonians 3:5, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 3:8, Revelation 12:7-9 and 20:1-3:
 - A. Who is the tempter?

 - B. By what other names is he known?

 - C. Describe his character and actions.

4. From 1 Chronicles 29:10, 17; Proverbs 17:3; Jeremiah 11:20, 17:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4:
 - A. Who is it that tests the hearts of men?
 - B. Why?
 - C. What personal instruction, guidance and counsel does Psalm 139 (particularly verses 1-7, 13-16 and 23-24) provide us in the area of testing?

5. From 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-15, what else can you observe about temptation?

6. What do Matthew 4:1, Mark 1:12 and Luke 4: 8 record about the role of the Holy Spirit in the temptation and testing of Jesus?

7. Refer to Genesis 3:1-20; Numbers 13:1-2, 21, 26-33; Numbers 14:1-10, 26-45; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13; Ephesians 6:12 and 1 John 2:16. Compare the temptations and tests of Adam and Eve, the Israelites and Jesus with regard to:

A. Location:

- (1) Adam and Eve
- (2) the Israelites
- (3) Jesus

B. Length of time:

- (1) Adam and Eve
- (2) the Israelites
- (3) Jesus

C. Setting (surrounding conditions)

- (1) Adam and Eve
- (2) the Israelites
- (3) Jesus

D. Type of temptation(s) (1 John 2:16)

- (1) Adam and Eve
- (2) the Israelites

- (3) Jesus

- (4) What strategies and means did Satan use to entice Adam and Eve, the Israelites (implied) and Jesus?

- (5) How does Satan misuse and twist God's Word in tempting Adam and Eve and Jesus?

- (6) In your opinion, what were Satan's purpose and goal in trying to tempt Adam and Eve, the Israelites and Jesus? Why?

(7) Refer to Psalm 25:4-5, 27:1, 31:14-15 and 143:8-10; Matthew 26:39; John 6:38-39, 17:4; Galatians 5:1; and 1 John 3:8. What factors were or should have been considered in formulating a response to Satan by:

(a) Adam and Eve

(b) the Israelites

(c) Jesus

E. How did each respond?

(1) Adam and Eve

(2) the Israelites

(3) Jesus

F. How did their responses reflect what and in whom they believed?

(1) Adam and Eve

(2) the Israelites

(3) Jesus

G. What were the consequences of their responses?

(1) Adam and Eve

(2) the Israelites

(3) Jesus

8. Read John 4:31-34, Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What do these passages as well as those studied earlier teach us about dealing with temptation?