CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 4 —

The Temptation and the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 4 begins the public ministry of Jesus.

At the end of Chapter 3, Jesus was declared the beloved Son of God.

Luke traced His family back to Adam.

Now, like Adam, Jesus faces the tempter.

But where Adam fell in a garden, Jesus stands firm in a wilderness.

He answers every temptation with the Word of God.

Then He returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.

In His hometown synagogue, He reads from Isaiah and announces that the Scripture is fulfilled in Him.

The people who first admired Him soon try to throw Him off a cliff.

In Capernaum, He drives out demons and heals the sick with a word.

And He insists that the good news must go to other towns as well.

The chapter moves through five movements:

- The Temptation in the Wilderness (verses 1–13).
- The Ministry Begins in Galilee (verses 14–15).
- Rejection at Nazareth (verses 16–30).
- Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit (verses 31–37).
- Jesus Heals Many (verses 38–44).

The central truth of Luke 4 is:

Jesus, full of the Spirit, defeated temptation by the Word of God and began His mission to bring good news, freedom, healing, and restoration, revealing His authority as the Son of God even when His own people rejected Him.

I. FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 4:1 — Led into the Wilderness

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit.”

The Spirit had just come upon Him at His baptism.

“Returned from the Jordan.”

From the place of the Father's approval.

“And was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”

The Spirit did not lead Him to comfort.

He led Him into testing.

Being filled with the Spirit does not mean avoiding hard places.

Cross References

Matthew 4:1

> Then the Spirit led Jesus out into the desert so the devil could tempt Him.

Mark 1:12

> At once the Spirit sent Him out into the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 8:2

> Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness these forty years to humble you and test you, to find out what was in your heart and whether you would obey His commands.

Spiritual Principle

The Spirit may lead God's people into seasons of testing.

Key Truth

Right after the Father's approval came the devil's attack.

II. FORTY DAYS

Luke 4:2 — Tempted by the Devil

“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.”

“For forty days.”

Israel wandered forty years in the wilderness and failed.

Jesus spent forty days and did not fail.

“He was tempted by the devil.”

The devil is real.

He is the enemy of God and of God's people.

“He ate nothing during those days.”

Jesus fasted.

“And at the end of them He was hungry.”

Jesus was truly human.

He felt real hunger and real weakness.

The devil came when Jesus was weakest.

Cross References

Matthew 4:2

> After going without food for forty days and forty nights, He was very hungry.

Exodus 34:28

> Moses stayed there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water.

Deuteronomy 9:9

> I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I did not eat bread or drink water.

Spiritual Principle

Temptation often comes when we are weak and tired.

Key Truth

Jesus faced temptation as a real man in real weakness.

III. TELL THIS STONE TO BECOME BREAD

Luke 4:3 — The First Temptation

“The devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.””

“If You are the Son of God.”

The Father had just said, “You are My beloved Son.”

The devil questioned it.

He did the same in Eden: “Did God really say?”

“Tell this stone to become bread.”

Use Your power to meet Your own needs.

Do not wait on the Father.

Bread is not evil.

But getting it the devil's way would be disobedience.

Cross References

Matthew 4:3

> The tempter came to Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, order these stones to turn into bread.”

Genesis 3:1

> The snake was more cunning than any wild animal the Lord God had made. It said to the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat from any tree in the garden?”

1 Thessalonians 3:5

> That is why I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid the tempter had tempted you and our work had been wasted.

Spiritual Principle

The devil tempts us to meet good needs in wrong ways.

Spiritual Warning

Temptation often begins by questioning what God has said.

IV. NOT ON BREAD ALONE

Luke 4:4 — It Is Written

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word of God.’””

“It is written.”

Jesus did not argue.

He did not use His divine power.

He used Scripture, the same weapon available to every believer.

“Man shall not live on bread alone.”

He quoted Deuteronomy, from Israel's time in the wilderness.

“But on every word of God.”

Obeying God matters more than food.

God's word is our true life.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 8:3

> He humbled you and let you go hungry, and then He fed you with manna, to teach you that people do not live only on bread but on everything the Lord says.

Matthew 4:4

> Jesus answered, “Scripture says, ‘A person does not live by eating bread only, but by every word God speaks.’”

John 6:35

> Jesus told them, “I Myself am the bread that brings life. Anyone who comes to Me will not go hungry again, and anyone who trusts in Me will not be thirsty again.”

Spiritual Principle

God's Word is our first and greatest need.

Application

Is your soul being fed by God's Word every day?

V. ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD

Luke 4:5 — A High Place

“Then the devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.”

“The devil led Him up to a high place.”

A place to see everything.

“And showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.”

All the power.

All the glory.

All at once.

The devil offered a shortcut to the throne.

Cross References

Matthew 4:8

> Then the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their greatness.

Daniel 4:17

> The Most High rules over the kingdoms of people and gives them to anyone He chooses, even to the lowliest of people.

Revelation 11:15

> Voices in heaven shouted, “The rule over this world now belongs to our Lord and to His Messiah, and He will be King forever and ever.”

Spiritual Principle

The devil offers shortcuts to what God promises in His own way.

Key Truth

The kingdoms of the world will belong to Christ, but by way of the cross.

VI. I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THEIR AUTHORITY

Luke 4:6 — The Devil's Offer

“And the devil said, “I will give You all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.”

“I will give You all their authority and splendor.”

A huge offer.

“It has been given to me.”

The Bible calls the devil the ruler of this world and the god of this age.

He has real influence over a fallen world.

“And I can give it to anyone I want.”

This was a boast and partly a lie.

God remains the true ruler over all.

The devil is a liar from the beginning.

Cross References

John 12:31

> Now is the time for this world to be judged. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out.

2 Corinthians 4:4

> The one who rules this present age has covered the eyes of those who do not believe, so that they cannot see the shining good news that shows Christ's glory.

Ephesians 2:2

> You used to live the way this world lives, following the ruler of the powers of the air, the spirit now working in those who disobey God.

Spiritual Principle

The devil's promises mix truth with lies.

Spiritual Warning

The devil's gifts always come with a price.

VII. IF YOU WORSHIP ME

Luke 4:7 — The Price

“If You worship me, it will all be Yours.””

“If You worship me.”

Here is the real goal.

The devil wants worship.

He has always wanted to take God's place.

“It will all be Yours.”

No cross.

No suffering.

Just bow down once.

But the price was everything.

Cross References

Matthew 4:9

> The devil said, “I will give You all of this if You will bow down and worship me.”

Revelation 13:2

> The dragon gave the beast his own power, his throne, and great authority.

Isaiah 14:14

> I will climb above the tops of the clouds. I will make myself like the Most High.

Spiritual Principle

Every temptation is a call to worship something other than God.

Key Truth

The devil offered a crown without a cross.

VIII. WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

Luke 4:8 — Serve Him Only

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

“It is written.”

Again, Scripture.

“Worship the Lord your God.”

Only God deserves worship.

“And serve Him only.”

Not God plus something else.

Only Him.

Jesus chose the Father's way, even though it led to the cross.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:13

> Respect the Lord your God, serve Him, and make your promises only in His name.

Matthew 4:10

> Jesus said, “Get away from Me, Satan! Scripture says, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.’”

Deuteronomy 10:20

> Honor the Lord your God and serve Him. Hold tightly to Him.

Spiritual Principle

God alone deserves our worship and service.

Application

What competes with God for first place in your heart?

IX. THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE TEMPLE

Luke 4:9 — Throw Yourself Down

“Then 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.”

“The highest point of the temple.”

A very public, very religious place.

“If You are the Son of God.”

Again the devil questioned His identity.

“Throw Yourself down from here.”

Prove it.

Make God rescue You in front of everyone.

The crowds would be amazed.

But it would be forcing God's hand.

Cross References

Matthew 4:5

> Then the devil took Him to the holy city and placed Him on the highest part of the temple.

Psalm 91:11

> He will tell His angels to watch over you and protect you wherever you go.

Matthew 27:40

> They said, “You said You would tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save Yourself! Come down from the cross if You are the Son of God!”

Spiritual Principle

The devil tempts us to demand proof from God.

Key Truth

The same taunt, “If You are the Son of God,” would be heard again at the cross.

X. HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS

Luke 4:10 — The Devil Quotes Scripture

“For it is written: ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully;”

“For it is written.”

Now the devil quoted Scripture too.

He used God's words.

But he twisted their meaning.

Psalm 91 is a promise of God's care for those who trust Him.

It is not a license to put ourselves in danger to force God to act.

Cross References

Psalm 91:11

> For He will order His angels to keep you safe in all your ways.

Matthew 4:6

> The devil said, “If You are the Son of God, jump down, because Scripture says, ‘He will give His angels orders about You.’”

Hebrews 1:14

> All angels are spirits who serve God and are sent to help those who will inherit salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Scripture can be twisted when taken out of context.

Spiritual Warning

Not everyone who quotes the Bible is speaking for God.

XI. THEY WILL LIFT YOU UP

Luke 4:11 — Not Striking Your Foot

“they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’””

The devil finished the quotation.

It was accurate.

But it was misused.

He left out the context of trust and obedience.

The best defense against twisted Scripture is knowing the whole of Scripture.

Cross References

Psalm 91:12

> They will carry you in their hands so you will not hit your foot on a rock.

Matthew 4:6

> They will hold you up with their hands so that you will not trip over a stone.

Proverbs 3:23

> Then you will go on your way safely, and you will not stumble.

Spiritual Principle

Knowing all of God's Word protects us from those who misuse it.

Key Truth

Satan knows Scripture, but he does not obey it.

XII. DO NOT PUT GOD TO THE TEST

Luke 4:12 — The Third Answer

“Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’””

“It is said.”

Jesus answered Scripture with Scripture.

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”

Trusting God is not the same as testing Him.

Testing God means trying to force Him to prove Himself.

Trust waits on God.

Testing demands from God.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:16

> Do not test the Lord your God as you did at Massah.

Matthew 4:7

> Jesus answered, “It is also written: ‘Do not try to test the Lord your God.’”

1 Corinthians 10:9

> We must not test Christ as some of them did, and they were killed by snakes.

Spiritual Principle

Faith trusts God without demanding that He prove Himself.

Spiritual Warning

Do not put yourself in needless danger and call it faith.

XIII. UNTIL AN OPPORTUNE TIME

Luke 4:13 — The Devil Left Him

“When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.”

“When the devil had finished all this tempting.”

Jesus was tested in every way.

Physical need.

Power and glory.

Spiritual pride.

“He left Him.”

Jesus won.

“Until an opportune time.”

The devil would come back.

Temptation is not a one-time battle.

Cross References

Matthew 4:11

> Then the devil left Him, and angels came and took care of Him.

James 4:7

> So give yourselves to God. Stand against the devil, and he will run away from you.

Hebrews 4:15

> Our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, yet He never sinned.

Spiritual Principle

Resist the devil, and he will flee.

Key Truth

Jesus understands our temptations because He faced them and won.

XIV. IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

Luke 4:14 — Returned to Galilee

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside.”

“Jesus returned to Galilee.”

Back to the north.

“In the power of the Spirit.”

He went into the wilderness full of the Spirit.

He came out in the power of the Spirit.

Victory over temptation led to power in ministry.

“News about Him spread.”

People were talking about Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 4:12

> When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He went back to Galilee.

Mark 1:14

> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the good news from God.

Matthew 4:24

> News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought Him everyone who was sick.

Spiritual Principle

Victory in private prepares us for power in public.

Key Truth

The Spirit's power rests on those who obey.

XV. HE TAUGHT IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES

Luke 4:15 — Everyone Praised Him

“He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him.”

“He taught in their synagogues.”

Synagogues were local places of worship and teaching.

Jesus went where people gathered to hear God's Word.

“And everyone praised Him.”

At first, He was popular.

But praise can quickly turn to rejection, as the next story shows.

Cross References

Mark 1:21

> They went to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus traveled all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every kind of sickness.

John 7:46

> The officers answered, “No one ever spoke the way this man speaks!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus brought God's Word to where people gathered.

Key Truth

Popularity is not the same as faith.

XVI. AS WAS HIS CUSTOM

Luke 4:16 — In Nazareth

“He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read,”

“He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up.”

His hometown.

People who had known Him since childhood.

“He went into the synagogue, as was His custom.”

Jesus had a habit of worship.

Every Sabbath.

If the Son of God needed regular worship, so do we.

“He stood up to read.”

Out of respect for God's Word.

Cross References

Mark 6:1

> Jesus left there and went to His hometown, and His followers went with Him.

Matthew 13:54

> He went to His hometown and taught in their synagogue, and the people were amazed.

Acts 17:2

> As he usually did, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful habits of worship are important.

Application

Is regular worship a custom in your life?

XVII. THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH

Luke 4:17 — He Found the Place

“and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:”

“The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.”

Isaiah wrote seven hundred years earlier.

“Unrolling it, He found the place.”

Jesus chose His text on purpose.

He knew exactly where to go.

The Scriptures speak about Him.

Cross References

John 5:39

> You search the Scriptures carefully, thinking you will find eternal life in them. But it is Me they are talking about.

Acts 8:35

> Then Philip began with that same Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15

> Since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can make you wise and lead you to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

All Scripture points to Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus read about Himself.

XVIII. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME

Luke 4:18 — Good News to the Poor

““The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,”

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me.”

As at His baptism.

“Because He has anointed Me.”

Messiah means “Anointed One.”

“To proclaim good news to the poor.”

The poor in money and the poor in spirit.

“Freedom for the prisoners.”

Those held captive by sin and Satan.

“Recovery of sight for the blind.”

Physical and spiritual sight.

“To set the oppressed free.”

Those crushed by life.

This is Jesus' mission statement.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:1

> The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the humble. He sent Me to heal broken hearts, to announce freedom to captives, and to tell prisoners they will be released.

Isaiah 42:7

> You will open blind eyes and lead prisoners out of their cells.

Acts 10:38

> You know that God poured out the Holy Spirit and power on Jesus from Nazareth. He traveled from place to place doing good and healing everyone the devil was holding down, because God was with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus came to bring good news, freedom, sight, and healing.

Key Truth

The mission of Jesus is good news for the broken.

XIX. THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Luke 4:19 — The Jubilee

“to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.””

“The year of the Lord's favor.”

This recalls the Year of Jubilee.

Every fiftieth year, debts were canceled, slaves were freed, and land was returned.

Jesus brings the true Jubilee.

Notice where Jesus stopped reading.

Isaiah goes on to say, “and the day of vengeance of our God.”

Jesus stopped before that line.

He came first to offer grace.

Judgment will come later.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:2

> He sent Me to announce the year when the Lord will show His kindness, and the day when our God will punish the wicked.

Leviticus 25:10

> Make the fiftieth year holy, and announce freedom for everyone living in the land. It will be a jubilee for you.

2 Corinthians 6:2

> God says, “At the right time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.” Listen: this is the time God is showing His kindness. Today is the day He saves.

Spiritual Principle

Now is the time of God's favor.

Key Truth

Jesus stopped reading at grace, because He came first to save.

XX. ALL EYES WERE ON HIM

Luke 4:20 — He Sat Down

“Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him.”

“He rolled up the scroll.”

“And sat down.”

In that day, teachers sat down to teach.

“The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him.”

Total silence.

Everyone waited.

What would He say about this passage?

Cross References

Nehemiah 8:5

> Ezra opened the book where everyone could see him, since he was standing above them. As he opened it, all the people stood up.

Mark 1:22

> The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority.

Acts 13:15

> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent word: “Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak.”

Spiritual Principle

God's Word deserves our full attention.

Key Truth

Every eye was on Jesus, and every heart was about to be tested.

XXI. TODAY THIS SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED

Luke 4:21 — In Your Hearing

“He began by saying to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.””

“Today.”

Not someday.

Now.

“This Scripture is fulfilled.”

Jesus claimed to be the Anointed One Isaiah wrote about.

“In your hearing.”

The promise had arrived while they listened.

This was one of the boldest statements ever made in a synagogue.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:1

> The Lord has anointed Me with His Spirit to bring good news.

Mark 1:15

> Jesus said, “The time has come. God's kingdom is near. Change your hearts and believe the good news!”

Galatians 4:4

> When the right time came, God sent His Son.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises.

Key Truth

The waiting was over; the Anointed One had come.

XXII. ISN'T THIS JOSEPH'S SON?

Luke 4:22 — Gracious Words

“All spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked.”

“All spoke well of Him.”

At first, they were impressed.

“Amazed at the gracious words.”

Words full of grace.

“Isn't this Joseph's son?”

But they could not get past what they knew of Him.

The carpenter's boy.

How could He be the Messiah?

Familiarity blinded them.

Cross References

John 6:42

> They said, “Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know His father and mother. How can He now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

Matthew 13:55

> Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother named Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

Mark 6:3

> Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren't His sisters here with us? And they would not accept Him.

Spiritual Principle

Familiarity can blind us to who Jesus really is.

Spiritual Warning

Admiring Jesus' words is not the same as receiving Him.

XXIII. PHYSICIAN, HEAL YOURSELF

Luke 4:23 — Do It Here

“Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to Me: ‘Physician, heal Yourself!’ And you will tell Me, ‘Do here in Your hometown what we have heard that You did in Capernaum.’””

“Physician, heal Yourself!”

Prove Yourself.

“Do here in Your hometown what we have heard that You did in Capernaum.”

They wanted a show.

They wanted miracles for their own town.

They wanted Jesus on their terms.

Jesus knew their hearts.

Cross References

Mark 1:21

> They went into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus began teaching in the synagogue.

Matthew 4:13

> He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, a town by the lake.

Matthew 27:42

> He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus will not perform on demand for unbelieving hearts.

Key Truth

Demanding signs is not the same as having faith.

XXIV. NO PROPHET IS ACCEPTED

Luke 4:24 — In His Hometown

““Truly I tell you,” He continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.”

“Truly I tell you.”

A solemn statement.

“No prophet is accepted in his hometown.”

People who know us best often accept us least.

They think they already know everything about us.

Jesus knew rejection was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 13:57

> They were offended by Him. But Jesus said, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his hometown and in his own home.”

Mark 6:4

> Jesus said, “A prophet gets respect everywhere except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own house.”

John 4:44

> Jesus Himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own country.

Spiritual Principle

Those closest to us may struggle most to accept God's work in us.

Key Truth

Jesus experienced the pain of rejection by those who knew Him best.

XXV. MANY WIDOWS IN ISRAEL

Luke 4:25 — In Elijah's Time

“I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.”

“There were many widows in Israel.”

Many needy people among God's own nation.

“When the sky was shut for three and a half years.”

A time of judgment on Israel's unbelief under King Ahab.

“A severe famine throughout the land.”

Jesus reminded them of a story they knew well.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:1

> Elijah from Tishbe told Ahab, “As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, the God I serve, there will be no dew or rain these next few years unless I say so.”

James 5:17

> Elijah was an ordinary man like us. He prayed hard for the rain to stop, and no rain fell on the land for three and a half years.

1 Kings 18:1

> After a long time, in the third year, the Lord spoke to Elijah: “Go and show yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the land.”

Spiritual Principle

God's people can miss His blessing through unbelief.

Key Truth

Being among God's people does not guarantee receiving His grace.

XXVI. A WIDOW IN ZAREPHATH

Luke 4:26 — Elijah Was Sent to Her

“Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.”

“Elijah was not sent to any of them.”

Not to the widows of Israel.

“But to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.”

A Gentile woman.

From the homeland of wicked Queen Jezebel.

God showed mercy to an outsider who trusted Him.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:9

> Go now to Zarephath in Sidon and stay there. I have told a widow there to feed you.

1 Kings 17:16

> The jar of flour never ran out, and the jug of oil never ran dry, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

1 Kings 17:24

> The woman told Elijah, “Now I am sure you are God's man, and that what the Lord says through you is really true.”

Spiritual Principle

God's grace reaches outsiders who trust Him.

Key Truth

God's mercy has always reached beyond Israel's borders.

XXVII. NAAMAN THE SYRIAN

Luke 4:27 — Only Naaman Was Cleansed

“And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.””

“Many in Israel with leprosy.”

Many in need.

“Yet not one of them was cleansed.”

“Only Naaman the Syrian.”

A foreign army commander.

An enemy of Israel.

He humbled himself, obeyed God's word, and was healed.

Jesus' point was clear.

God's grace goes to those who receive it in faith, even outsiders.

Cross References

2 Kings 5:1

> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and highly respected, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a brave soldier, but he had a skin disease.

2 Kings 5:10

> Elisha sent a messenger to tell him, “Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times, and your skin will be healed and you will be clean.”

2 Kings 5:14

> So Naaman went to the Jordan and dipped under the water seven times, just as Elisha had told him. His skin was made new, soft like a little boy's, and his disease was gone.

Spiritual Principle

God's grace is for all who receive it in humble faith.

Key Truth

Jesus' mission would reach the nations.

XXVIII. THEY WERE FURIOUS

Luke 4:28 — Rage in the Synagogue

“All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.”

Minutes earlier, they spoke well of Him.

Now they were furious.

Why?

Jesus said God's grace was not their private property.

He said outsiders might receive what they rejected.

Pride turned admiration into anger.

This is a warning for anyone, in any age, who thinks God's grace belongs only to their own group.

Cross References

Acts 7:54

When they heard this, they became furious and ground their teeth at Stephen.

Matthew 13:57

They took offense at Him.

Mark 6:3

And they were offended because of Him.

Spiritual Principle

Pride resists the truth that grace is for everyone.

Spiritual Warning

Religious people can become angry when God's grace reaches others.

XXIX. TO THROW HIM OFF THE CLIFF

Luke 4:29 — Driven Out of Town

“They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him off the cliff.”

“They got up, drove Him out of the town.”

From worship to violence in moments.

“In order to throw Him off the cliff.”

They tried to kill Him.

His own hometown.

This was a preview of the cross.

Cross References

John 8:59

Then they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid and left the temple area.

Acts 7:58

> They dragged Stephen out of the city and began throwing stones at him.

Jeremiah 11:21

> The men of Anathoth wanted to kill you. They said, “Do not prophesy in the Lord's name, or we will kill you.”

Spiritual Principle

Rejection of Jesus can become hostility toward Him.

Key Truth

The rejection at Nazareth pointed ahead to the rejection at Calvary.

XXX. HE WALKED RIGHT THROUGH

Luke 4:30 — He Went on His Way

“But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way.”

“He walked right through the crowd.”

No one could stop Him.

His time had not yet come.

“And went on His way.”

Jesus would die, but only at the Father's appointed time.

And He would lay down His life by His own choice.

Cross References

John 7:30

> They wanted to grab Him, but nobody touched Him, because the hour set for Him had not arrived.

John 8:59

> Jesus slipped away from them and left the temple.

John 10:39

Again they tried to seize Him, but He escaped from their grasp.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan cannot be stopped by human rage.

Key Truth

No one could take Jesus' life before His time.

XXXI. DOWN TO CAPERNAUM

Luke 4:31 — Teaching on the Sabbath

“Then He went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath He taught the people.”

“He went down to Capernaum.”

A fishing town on the Sea of Galilee.

It became the home base of His ministry.

“On the Sabbath He taught the people.”

Rejected in one town, He kept teaching in the next.

Cross References

Mark 1:21

When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue in Capernaum and taught.

Matthew 4:13

He moved to Capernaum by the lake.

Matthew 9:1

Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own town.

Spiritual Principle

Rejection does not stop God's mission.

Key Truth

When one door closed, Jesus went through another.

XXXII. HIS WORDS HAD AUTHORITY

Luke 4:32 — Amazed at His Teaching

“They were amazed at His teaching, because His words had authority.”

“They were amazed at His teaching.”

“Because His words had authority.”

Other teachers quoted earlier teachers.

Jesus spoke with His own authority.

He did not say, “Some teachers say.”

He said, “I tell you.”

Cross References

Mark 1:22

> The people were astonished by what He taught. He spoke as someone with the right to command, unlike their law teachers.

Matthew 7:29

> He did not teach the way their law teachers did. He taught with real authority.

John 7:46

> The guards said, “No one has ever spoken like this man!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' words carry the authority of God.

Key Truth

When Jesus speaks, the matter is settled.

XXXIII. A MAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON

Luke 4:33 — An Impure Spirit

“In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,”

“In the synagogue.”

Even in a place of worship.

“A man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit.”

Evil spirits are real.

The Bible does not treat them as myths.

At the same time, Scripture also tells of ordinary sicknesses, and not every illness or mental struggle is caused by a demon.

“He cried out at the top of his voice.”

The demon could not stay hidden in the presence of Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 1:23

> Just then a man in their synagogue who had an evil spirit cried out.

Mark 5:7

> He shouted, “What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear by God that You won't torture me!”

Acts 19:15

> The evil spirit answered them, “I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

Spiritual Principle

The presence of Jesus exposes evil.

Key Truth

Darkness cannot stay hidden when the light comes.

XXXIV. THE HOLY ONE OF GOD

Luke 4:34 — What Do You Want with Us?

“Go away! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!””

“Go away!”

The demon wanted nothing to do with Jesus.

“Have You come to destroy us?”

The demons knew their end was coming.

“I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

The demons knew exactly who Jesus was.

Knowing about Jesus is not the same as trusting Him.

Cross References

Mark 1:24

> Jesus from Nazareth, why are You bothering us? Are You here to wipe us out? I know exactly who You are. You are God's Holy One!

Matthew 8:29

> They screamed, “Son of God, what business do You have with us? Did You come to punish us before the time is up?”

Acts 3:14

> You turned your backs on the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be released to you.

Spiritual Principle

Knowing facts about Jesus does not save.

Key Truth

Even demons recognize Jesus as the Holy One of God.

XXXV. BE QUIET! COME OUT!

Luke 4:35 — Without Injuring Him

““Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.”

“Be quiet!”

Jesus did not accept testimony from demons.

“Come out of him!”

No ritual.

No long struggle.

Just a command.

“The demon threw the man down… and came out without injuring him.”

One last show of rage.

But Jesus protected the man.

Cross References

Mark 1:25

> Jesus spoke firmly to it: “Be silent, and come out of him!”

Mark 9:26

> The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so still that many said, “He is dead.”

Matthew 8:16

> That evening people brought Him many who had demons. He drove the spirits out with a word and healed all the sick.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has complete authority over evil.

Key Truth

One word from Jesus is enough.

XXXVI. WHAT WORDS THESE ARE!

Luke 4:36 — Authority and Power

“All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power He gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!””

“What words these are!”

His words taught with authority.

His words also cast out demons.

“With authority and power.”

Authority: the right to command.

Power: the ability to make it happen.

Jesus has both.

Cross References

Mark 1:27

> Everyone was so astonished that they asked each other, “What is going on? This is a new kind of teaching, with real power behind it! He commands evil spirits, and they do what He says.”

Matthew 7:29

> He taught as one with authority.

Luke 9:1

> Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal diseases.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' word has power over every evil force.

Key Truth

Jesus has both the right and the power to set people free.

XXXVII. THE NEWS SPREAD

Luke 4:37 — Throughout the Area

“And the news about Him spread throughout the surrounding area.”

People could not stop talking.

A man set free in front of everyone.

News of Jesus spread from town to town.

Cross References

Mark 1:28

News about Jesus quickly spread everywhere in the region of Galilee.

Matthew 9:26

The news about this spread through all that area.

Matthew 4:24

Reports about Him went out through all of Syria.

Spiritual Principle

What Jesus does is worth telling.

Key Truth

Freedom in Jesus is news that spreads.

XXXVIII. SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

Luke 4:38 — A High Fever

“Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.”

“Went to the home of Simon.”

Simon Peter.

From the synagogue to a home.

“Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever.”

Luke the doctor notes it was a high fever.

Peter was married.

“And they asked Jesus to help her.”

They brought their need to Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 1:29

> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

Mark 1:30

> Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her right away.

Matthew 8:14

> When Jesus came into Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

Spiritual Principle

Bring your family's needs to Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus cares about needs in our homes, not just in public.

XXXIX. HE REBUKED THE FEVER

Luke 4:39 — She Began to Serve

“So He bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to serve them.”

“He bent over her.”

Personal care.

“And rebuked the fever.”

As He rebuked the demon.

“And it left her.”

“She got up at once.”

Complete and immediate healing.

No weakness.

“And began to serve them.”

Her healing led to service.

Those Jesus touches become servants.

Cross References

Mark 1:31

> He went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. The fever went away, and she began to serve them.

Matthew 8:15

> He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she got up and began to take care of Him.

John 4:52

> He asked when his son had gotten better. They said, “The fever left him yesterday at one in the afternoon.”

Spiritual Principle

Those Jesus heals become those who serve.

Application

How is God calling you to serve in response to His grace?

XL. AT SUNSET

Luke 4:40 — Laying His Hands on Each One

“At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them.”

“At sunset.”

When the Sabbath ended, people could carry the sick.

“All who had various kinds of sickness.”

Every kind of need.

“Laying His hands on each one.”

Only Luke tells us this.

Jesus did not heal the crowd as a group.

He touched each person.

Each one mattered.

Cross References

Mark 1:32

> That evening after sunset, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had demons.

Matthew 8:16

> When evening came, many with demons were brought to Him, and He healed all who were sick.

Mark 6:5

> He could not do any miracles there except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus cares for each person individually.

Key Truth

In a crowd, Jesus still sees and touches each one.

XLI. YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD

Luke 4:41 — He Would Not Allow Them to Speak

“Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.”

“Demons came out of many people.”

Many were set free.

“Shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’”

True words from a wrong source.

“He would not allow them to speak.”

Jesus would not let demons announce Him.

He would reveal Himself in His own way and time.

Cross References

Mark 1:34

> He healed many who had different illnesses and drove out many demons, but He did not let the demons speak, because they knew who He was.

Mark 3:11

> Whenever evil spirits saw Him, they fell down before Him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!”

Mark 3:12

> But He strongly warned them not to tell people who He was.

Spiritual Principle

The message of Jesus must come from faithful messengers.

Key Truth

Truth from the enemy's mouth is still a trap.

XLII. A SOLITARY PLACE

Luke 4:42 — They Tried to Keep Him

“At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for Him and when they came to where He was, they tried to keep Him from leaving them.”

“At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place.”

After a long night of ministry, He went to be alone with the Father.

Mark tells us He prayed.

“They tried to keep Him from leaving them.”

Capernaum wanted to keep Jesus for themselves.

Nazareth rejected Him.

Capernaum tried to hold on to Him.

Both wanted Jesus on their own terms.

Cross References

Mark 1:35

> Long before daylight, Jesus rose, went out of the house, and found a quiet place where He could be alone and pray.

Mark 1:36

> Simon and his friends went looking for Him.

Mark 1:37

> When they found Him, they said, “Everyone is looking for You!”

Spiritual Principle

Busy ministry must be balanced with time alone with God.

Application

Where is your solitary place to meet with God?

XLIII. TO THE OTHER TOWNS ALSO

Luke 4:43 — That Is Why I Was Sent

“But He said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.””

“I must.”

A divine necessity.

“Proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.”

The first time Luke uses the phrase “kingdom of God.”

The rule of God breaking into the world through Jesus.

“To the other towns also.”

The good news is not for one place.

“Because that is why I was sent.”

Jesus knew His mission.

He would not be distracted from it, even by popularity.

Cross References

Mark 1:38

> Jesus answered, “Let us go to other villages nearby so I can preach there too. That is why I came.”

Isaiah 61:1

> He has sent Me to bring good news.

Luke 19:10

> The Son of Man came to look for the lost and to save them.

Spiritual Principle

The good news must go everywhere.

Key Truth

Jesus' mission was never meant to stay in one town.

XLIV. HE KEPT ON PREACHING

Luke 4:44 — In the Synagogues

“And He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.”

“He kept on preaching.”

Jesus was faithful to His mission.

“In the synagogues of Judea.”

Luke sometimes uses “Judea” for the whole land of the Jewish people, including Galilee.

Some early copies read “Galilee” here.

Either way, Jesus took the message from town to town.

Cross References

Mark 1:39

> So He traveled all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went all over Galilee teaching in synagogues and preaching the good news of the kingdom.

Matthew 9:35

> Jesus traveled to every town and village. He taught in their synagogues, announced the good news of God's kingdom, and cured every kind of illness and disease.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness means continuing the mission day after day.

Key Truth

Jesus never stopped proclaiming the kingdom.

XLV. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 4

1. Jesus Resisted Satan with the Word of God

“It is written.”

Principle:

Even in weakness, Jesus defeated temptation with Scripture.

2. God's Word Answers Every Temptation

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word of God.”

Principle:

Temptation appeals to physical need, pride, and power, but God's Word is the answer.

3. Jesus' Mission Is Spirit-Anointed

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me.”

Principle:

Jesus came to bring good news, freedom, healing, and restoration.

4. True Prophets Are Often Rejected

“No prophet is accepted in his hometown.”

Principle:

Those closest to God's messenger may be the first to reject Him.

5. Jesus Has Authority over Sickness and Demons

“With authority and power He gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!”

Principle:

His power over evil and disease proves He is the Son of God.

6. The Kingdom Must Be Proclaimed Everywhere

“I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also.”

Principle:

The good news is meant for every place, not just one.

XLVI. THREE TEMPTATIONS, THREE ANSWERS

The devil attacked in three areas.

Physical Need

“Tell this stone to become bread.”

Answer: **“Man shall not live on bread alone.”**

Power and Glory

“If You worship me, it will all be Yours.”

Answer: **“Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”**

Spiritual Pride

“Throw Yourself down from here.”

Answer: **“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”**

How Jesus Won

He was full of the Spirit.

He knew the Word.

He obeyed the Father.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Spirit and the Word are the believer's weapons against temptation.

XLVII. THE FIRST ADAM AND THE LAST ADAM

Luke 3 ended with **“the son of Adam, the son of God.”**

Luke 4 shows Jesus facing the same enemy Adam faced.

Adam Was in a Garden

Jesus was in a wilderness.

Adam Was Well Fed

Jesus was hungry.

Adam Listened to the Tempter

Jesus answered with God's Word.

Adam Fell

Jesus stood.

Adam Brought Death

Jesus brings life.

Key Truth

Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded, and He shares His victory with all who trust Him.

XLVIII. THE MISSION OF JESUS

In Nazareth, Jesus announced His mission.

Good News to the Poor

Hope for those with nothing.

Freedom for the Prisoners

Release from sin and Satan.

Sight for the Blind

Eyes opened, physically and spiritually.

Freedom for the Oppressed

Relief for those crushed by life.

The Year of the Lord's Favor

God's time of grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus came to bring good news to the broken and freedom to the bound.

XLIX. WHAT LUKE 4 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is Full of the Spirit

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit.”

He Is the Victor over Temptation

“The devil… left Him.”

He Lives by God's Word

“It is written.”

He Is the Anointed One

“He has anointed Me.”

He Fulfills Scripture

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled.”

He Brings Grace to Outsiders

“Only Naaman the Syrian.”

He Is the Holy One of God

“I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

He Has Authority and Power

“With authority and power He gives orders.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Spirit-filled, victorious, anointed Son of God, with authority over every evil.

L. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who led Jesus into the wilderness?

The Holy Spirit.

Question 2

Why is it important that Jesus was hungry?

It shows He was truly human and faced temptation in real weakness.

Question 3

What did the devil question in the first and third temptations?

Jesus' identity: “If You are the Son of God.”

Question 4

How did Jesus answer each temptation?

With Scripture from the book of Deuteronomy.

Question 5

How did the devil misuse Scripture?

He quoted Psalm 91 out of context to tempt Jesus to test God.

Question 6

What is the difference between trusting God and testing God?

Trust waits on God; testing tries to force God to prove Himself.

Question 7

What passage did Jesus read in Nazareth?

Isaiah 61, about the Spirit-anointed One who brings good news, freedom, and sight.

Question 8

Where did Jesus stop reading, and why is it important?

Before “the day of vengeance,” showing He came first to offer grace.

Question 9

Why were the people of Nazareth so angry?

Jesus said God's grace had reached outsiders like the widow of Zarephath and Naaman, and their pride was offended.

Question 10

What did the demon say about Jesus?

“I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

Question 11

What did Simon's mother-in-law do after she was healed?

She got up at once and began to serve.

Question 12

What should Luke 4 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 4 should cause believers to live:

- Depending on the Holy Spirit.
- Knowing and using God's Word against temptation.
- Worshiping God alone.
- Trusting God without testing Him.
- Sharing good news with the poor and broken.
- Welcoming God's grace for outsiders.
- Serving others after being touched by Jesus.

- Making time alone with God.

LI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 4 asks several important questions.

Do I Know God's Word Well Enough to Fight Temptation?

Can I say, “It is written”?

What Is My Greatest Area of Temptation?

Physical needs, power, or pride?

Do I Worship God Alone?

Or is something else competing for my heart?

Am I Testing God or Trusting Him?

Do I demand proof, or do I wait in faith?

Have I Let Familiarity Blind Me to Jesus?

Have I heard about Him so long that I no longer listen?

Am I Glad When Grace Reaches Others?

Or do I resent it?

Has Jesus' Touch Led Me to Serve?

Like Simon's mother-in-law?

Do I Have a Solitary Place?

Where I meet with God alone?

LII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“It Is Written”

Jesus was hungry.

He was alone.

He had not eaten for forty days.

The devil came with every kind of temptation.

Bread for His hunger.

Kingdoms for His glory.

A spectacle for His pride.

Jesus could have answered with divine power.

He could have called angels.

He could have argued.

Instead, He answered with three simple words.

“It is written.”

He used the same weapon every believer has.

The Word of God.

This creates a powerful principle.

We do not defeat temptation by our own strength.

We defeat it by standing on what God has said.

Principle:

The Word of God hidden in the heart is the believer's sword against every temptation.

LIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 4 shows the Son of God beginning His ministry.

He is led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

He is tempted by the devil.

He answers every temptation with Scripture.

He returns in the power of the Spirit.

He announces that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him.

His hometown tries to kill Him.

He casts out a demon with a word.

He heals a fever with a rebuke.

He lays His hands on each sick person.

And He moves on to preach the kingdom in other towns.

Luke 4 therefore reminds us:

Never face temptation without God's Word.

Never trade worship of God for anything the world offers.

Never test God and call it faith.

Never let familiarity blind you to Jesus.

Never resent God's grace to others.

The church does not need people who only admire Jesus' gracious words.

It needs:

People who stand on the Word of God.

People filled with the Spirit.

People who bring good news to the poor and broken.

And people who carry the kingdom to every town.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus has defeated the devil.

Tell people there is good news for the poor.

Tell people there is freedom for the captive.

Tell people the year of the Lord's favor is here.

And as you live:

Know the Word.

Worship God alone.

Serve others.

Take the good news everywhere.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus faced temptation and won.

Thank You that He understands our weakness.

Thank You for Your Word, which is our weapon against the enemy.

Thank You that Jesus was anointed by Your Spirit to bring good news to the poor.

Thank You for freedom for the captives and sight for the blind.

Thank You that Your grace reaches outsiders and the forgotten.

Thank You that Jesus has authority over every evil and every sickness.

Thank You that He touches each one personally.

Forgive us when we have given in to temptation.

Forgive us when we have worshiped anything other than You.

Forgive us when we have tested You instead of trusting You.

Forgive us when we have been too familiar with Jesus to truly listen.

Fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

Hide Your Word in our hearts.

Make us servants like the woman Jesus healed.

Give us time alone with You.

And send us to carry the good news to every place.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” — Luke 4:18

Central Truth

Jesus, full of the Spirit, defeated temptation by the Word of God and began His mission to bring good news, freedom, healing, and restoration, revealing His authority as the Son of God even when His own people rejected Him.

Luke 4 in One Sentence

Jesus defeats the devil's temptations in the wilderness with the Word of God, announces in Nazareth that He is the Spirit-anointed fulfillment of Isaiah's promise and is rejected by His hometown, then shows His authority in Capernaum by casting out demons and healing the sick before moving on to preach the kingdom in other towns.