

The Story Church - 1.15.23

A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part One: *Jesus and the Devil*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: **Can Christianity be trusted?**

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Everyone is tempted by something, so let's cut to the chase. Write down two or three of your most persistent temptations.

Luke 4:1-2 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

What does the Bible say about the devil?

Why do you think Jesus spoke so often about the devil?

Do you believe in the devil as a nefarious, spiritual being who seeks your ruin? Why or why not?

Luke 4:2-4 He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

First, the Enemy will test your _____.

In what ways have you experienced the temptations of the flesh? How did you handle them?

How can followers of Jesus fight this kind of temptation? (see *Ephesians 4:27* & *2 Timothy 1:7*)

Luke 4:5-8 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Next, the Enemy will test your _____.

How has the Enemy tested your loyalty to God? How have you handled this kind of temptation?

How can followers of Jesus fight back against this temptation? (See James 4:7)

Luke 4:9-13 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. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Then, the Enemy will test your _____.

How has the Enemy tested your core convictions? How have you handled this sort of test?

How can followers of Jesus fight back against this brand of spiritual assault? (See 1 Peter 5:8)

Two more questions to consider:

How can sinfulness in small, ordinary things lead to sinfulness in big, more important things?
And how can faithfulness in the small things lead to faithfulness in greater things?

This Week’s Daily Reading Plan*

- 1/16 - Luke 5:17-20
- 1/17 - Luke 5:21-26
- 1/18 - Luke 5:27-32
- 1/19 - Luke 5:33-35
- 1/20 - Luke 5:36-39

* Find the full January Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources

