**The Finger of God**

**You Must Pass These Tests**

November 19, 2023

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# SERMON DESCRIPTION/BACKGROND

In the encounter with Jesus and Satan, we discover not only the temptation of Christ but how this temptation led to Jesus’ ultimate power and “seat of authority”. The believer is provided with a blueprint on how to overcome evil and how to persevere under the onslaught of the devil. Jesus passes four major tests that thrust Him into His assignment. In fact, overcoming temptation is the bridge and the pathway that leads to authority and to the ultimate place where God desires to bring you.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?

* The there is a formula that leads to authority and power.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* We require authority to overcome Satan.

1. How should they apply it?

* Pass the tests by the Word of God.

# OPENING LINE

*Power and authority do not merely happen, they are a process.*

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**THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

**THE SPIRIT OF LEADERSHIP**

**THE 4 TESTS**

Our leadership journey takes us from wanderer to the “seat of authority.” The life of Jesus provides an amazing example of the process that must be taken for God’s mantle to come upon His leaders. Much like the children of Israel, Jesus endured a wilderness experience to prepare Him for ministry.

But unlike the children of Israel, Jesus succeeded in the wilderness and came out anointed and in the power of Holy Spirit. He overcame the temptations of Satan and took his rightful place, leadership, and authority.

It is imperative to note that all the temptations were:

* Legitimate
* Appealing
* Desired
* Ruthless.

In fact, Jesus had come for all the things that Satan promised Him. The temptations were real, and Jesus could have failed in any one of them, much like Adam did.

In the Bible, the wilderness represents a season/period of testing, preparation, and formation.

# CENTRAL TRUTH

**Through this real-life story, Luke communicates the path that all of God’s leaders must take on their journey to their “seat of authority” and the tests that must be overcome.**

# MAIN PASSAGE

**The journey of Christ, from the Jordan – into Wilderness – to Galilee – and home to Nazareth…**

Note – Jesus was strong in spirit, but He became week in His flesh, in that he was hungry – ***therefore, you must be strong in spirit to defeat your flesh.***

**Observations Of the Passage**

* Since only Jesus and Satan were present, Jesus would have told this story to the disciples
* It was Holy Spirit that drove Jesus into the wilderness – Satan found Him there
* He came out in the power of the Spirit
* Father affirmed Him at the Jordan before He went into the wilderness
* The four tests of the wilderness
* The temptations come at the end.

**Ephesians 2:4-6**

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**Luke 4:1-3**

1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

**TEST ONE: The “Bread Test”**

**Money or substance, resources, or gold**

* Jesus was hungry but not empty
* We must be full of the Holy Spirit
* Christ is the true Bread of Heaven – manna from heaven – you must solve your hunger problem
* Satan appealed to the cravings of Christ – the flesh is weak, but Jesus overcame
* The Bread test is about ensuring that money does not become Mammon – God remains our source
* A follower of Christ must not be tempted to submit to the lure of money and the power that comes along with it. Our soul and calling cannot have a price on it.

**Luke 4:4-7**

**4** But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.' " **5** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6**And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. **7**Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

**TEST TWO: The “Authority and Power Test”**

**(Might, force, greatness)**

* Satan promises Jesus incredible worldwide power and the ability to rule nations. He tried to feed the flesh of Christ and to take a shortcut to power and glory
* Sin is fun and provides pleasure but only for a season – it has an expiry
* Power comes through the work of the cross
* This includes leadership and influence
* Mountains are symbols of authority.

**TEST THREE: The “Glory Test”**

**(Honour, prestige, renown, acclamation)**

* The word “glory” means world-wide fame and notoriety
* Glory belongs to God and Satan desires to receive glory
* True wisdom is knowing how to apply the Word of God
* Flesh loves to receive glory
* Social media has fed this phenomenon
* People have made deals with the devil in order to be famous – they have sold their soul
* *Stealing glory from God, is acting like Satan*
* *The world is in love with fame and itself.*

**Luke 4:8**

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "

* “Get behind me”:
* Out of my sight
* Out of my way
* Not a distraction
* *Satan must not be in front us.*

**Luke 4:9**

Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.

**TEST FOUR: “The Identity Test”**

**(Personal, personality, individuality, belonging)**

* Satan questioned who Jesus was and to prove His identity by putting God to the test – in other words, back up who you say you are by displaying your ability
* If our identity is found in Christ, you do not have to prove who you are – never tempt God in this area
* Jesus hears the voice of the Father before the tests
* God’s approval is what matters most
* This is the position of approval
* You are already approved
* The deepest need of your soul is approval
* Power comes after approval.

**Luke 4:10-13**

10 For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, TO KEEP YOU,' 11 and, 'IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' "

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.' " 13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

* The test always requires a choice
  + Eve took the fruit – she chose the fruit over obeying God
  + Will we choose God?
  + Freedom comes because we choose correctly.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

The “seat’ of authority – the place where God desires to place you:

* If you fail the tests, you will be in the wilderness longer than necessary
* If you pass the tests, you will emerge with power – but more importantly with your seat
* You are designed and created for purpose – take your seat of authority.

**Jesus Begins His Ministry**

**Luke 4:14-15**

14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

**Luke 4:20**

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and **sat down**. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.