

Title: FIRST STEPS IN DISCIPLESHIP, LUKE 4:1-13
(Chatham, NJ; 02/17/13, AM) [E – Topical, Twin-Point]

Theme: The ideas expressed when Jesus resisted Satan's temptations reveal some of the first principles that a disciple must adopt.

Purpose: To reveal those things that are essential in the disciple's fight against Satan and to encourage the audience to adopt them.

Introduction:

1. Every one of Jesus' comebacks to Satan's temptations comes from Deuteronomy.
2. Most sermons I've heard have always dealt with the nature of the temptation, but today I want to deal with the content of the resistance.
3. What do his references tell us that are most important for the follower of God?

I. The Temptations and the Resistances, Luke 4:1-13

A. Man not live by bread alone (from Deut. 8:3)

1. Luke does not provide "but by every word, etc."
2. Left to itself physical desire becomes an idol, Phil. 3:19
3. Man's greatest need is God
4. All other needs can be diversionary or even idolatrous
5. Step 1 – seek first the Kingdom of God

B. Worship God only (Deut. 6:13)

1. Humanity tends to worship those things from which he derives the most immediate benefit: worldly goods, food, etc.
2. Worshipping God is not tied to gaining earthly power or pleasure
3. Our reward transcends this earthly existence
4. We are taught to no longer live for the inordinate desires, 1 Peter 4:1-2
5. Step 2 – It begins when we make Jesus our Lord, 1 Peter 3:15 (our supreme authority in all things)

C. Don't test God (Deut. 6:16)

1. Evil generations seek signs, Luke 11:29
2. We live in an age when many want God to prove Himself
3. Satan twists Scripture, Ps. 91:11-12, to make it sound like testing God is really an act of faith
4. But Jesus' answer refers to Massah, Ex. 17:2-7
5. Israel had asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" (Essentially, "Prove it!")
6. This was a demand, an act of faithlessness
7. Step 3 – "Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead" Rom. 10:9
8. The resurrection provides enough testimony for us to believe; don't keep asking Him for more proof

D. Jesus exposes Satan's lies

1. Satan is a murderer and liar, John 8:44
2. Lies are his native language
3. People can't see God's truth as long as they are blinded by Satan's lies
4. Notice here that the crowd has no good argument except to smear him
5. You are a Samaritan: today it is "You are a Christian," as if that diminishes your testimony
6. You are evil: today, pick a label!
7. Step 4 – Be aware of "deceitful schemes," Eph. 4:14 and of people with "darkened hearts," Eph. 4:17
8. Stand for what is true

II. "Culture Creep" (adapted from World Magazine article, 2/9/13, p. 75) demonstrates some of Satan's contemporary ways of lying

- A. Evil is only "controversial"
 - 1. "There is little agreement about pedophilia, even among those considered experts on the subject," read an article in a Canadian newspaper
 - 2. Introduces differences of opinion
 - 3. These can be controversial but to put it in these terms leaves out any discussion of right versus wrong
 - 4. In fact it relinquishes the word "wrong"

- B. Distinctions can normalize evil
 - 1. I heard it said when I was younger that an alcoholic was someone who was addicted to liquor, but someone with a beer-drinking problem was only a drunk
 - 2. Now we have ephedrophile, distinct from pedophile
 - 3. Somehow the distinction lends a quasi-legitimacy to the new category
 - 4. We might also say, "Well, we just have to agree to disagree"
 - 5. Or "That's just what people do now"

- C. The domain of the professional
 - 1. Jesus ran into this roadblock in John 7:15
 - 2. Quotes from some "major sociological study" by Professor So-and-so from Harvard, Yale, etc.
 - 3. See quote.
 - 4. The professional opinion can be used to justify just about anything, raise doubts, or make you think they know better than you

- D. Trumpet items that don't address legitimate issues
 - 1. Like when Bill Clinton had an affair with "that woman," the media blasted critics who said it didn't matter
 - 2. Or when alleged experts weigh in on what causes violence, they will seldom point to the dissolution of families, particularly the absence of fathers in the family (we cannot act like a 50% illegitimacy rate doesn't matter)
 - 3. Moreover critics will simply say that you are out of touch, old-fashioned, clinging to values of a by-gone era without any proof that your ideas are illegitimate

Conclusions:

- 1. Follow these steps on the way to becoming a disciple: seek the Kingdom first, make Jesus Lord, trust that God truly has raised Jesus from the dead, and don't be fooled by Satan's lies.
- 2. These are foundations of a heart that responds with belief, confession, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins.
- 3. These are the foundations also for remaining a life-long disciple.