



The Book of Luke 2015 Q2 Lesson 2 Baptism and the Temptations of Christ Jesus

A friend of mine from another faith visited Come and Reason with me one week and concluded that we surely do like to get into the details. She had never attended a religious service that talked about anything other than the basic Christian beliefs about loving God how His grace covers our sins.

She wondered if we believed that going into this depth was what we thought had to be done in order to be saved.

I responded that according to the Bible, trust and belief in God enough to keep allowing Him into your heart to do his work of healing was what saves a person.

However, the reason we take delight in digging deeper can best be expressed by

- **Proverbs 24: 3-4:** "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."
- **Isaiah 33: 6:** "He will be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of The Lord is the key to this treasure."

So let's see what rare and beautiful treasures The Lord can show us today to give beauty to our inner rooms!

INTRODUCTION

What I like about the book of Luke

Luke - Physician, a converted Gentile - not one of the 12 disciples.

Like the physicians of today, including those that attend this class, he was on a quest for honest answers, and he wasn't afraid to dig for the facts, try to understand them and to present them as understandably as he knew how. He said:

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the work. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

Luke writes this gospel to present Jesus as a Savior for the whole human race. The stories emphasize how kind and loving Jesus is to those despised by society (such as tax collectors, Samaritans, the poor, and women). He stresses the importance of prayer in Jesus' life.



He emphasizes facts, healing, miracles, parables, with a focus on making the events clear to the Gentiles - how to be saved

Only Luke and Matthew go into the detail of Jesus' genealogy.

Luke is the only one of the gospels to document Zechariah's prophecy about the roles of his son John the Baptist and Jesus:

Luke 1:67-79. "His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us - to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before The Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Luke is also the only gospel to document Simeon being moved by the Spirit to go to the temple, where he said:

Luke 2:30-32, 34, 35: "My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel....This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed...."

All of the Gospels discuss the baptism of Jesus and the Spirit descending on Jesus in the form of a dove, but They vary in what a voice from heaven says:

- **Matt:** This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased
- **Mark and Luke:** You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased
- **John:** does not mention the voice, but says that John was told by the one who sent him to baptize with water that the one upon whom the dove comes down and remains is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit - the Son of God

Only John does not discuss the temptations, but goes straight from Jesus' baptism to gathering disciples.

Luke and Mathew go into detail about the temptations.



SABBATH

This historic figures mentioned give us a date around AD 27 or 28 for the start of the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus points out that God chose a “lowly” man as Jesus’ herald, not one of the world’s “great men”

Tornado – the 7 huge, ancient oaks twisted and broken off, but wildflowers still all over the yard,

SUNDAY

What does repentance mean?

A change of mind – that changes the pattern of your life

“To baptize means to dip or immerse fully in water. Even before John, Jews commonly practiced this when Gentile proselytes chose to join the Jewish faith. In inviting Jews to be baptized, John the Baptist was setting forth a new principle: baptism is an occasion to publicly renounce one's old sinful ways and to prepare oneself for the coming of the Messiah”

Baptism - symbolic of death of body and spirit, resurrection to new life and spirit

Total immersion is used to symbolize whole hearted - not partial giving over – an “all in” total change of heart, as in:

- plant dies, its seed goes into soil, comes to life as a new plant.
- What Jesus was talking to Nicodemus - you must be born again.

John the Baptist said in Luke 3:16, 17:

"I baptize with water, but one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

How does Jesus baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire?

HOLY SPIRIT

Matt. 28:18-20: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

- **Mark 16:15-18:** "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be



condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands, and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all, they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

- **John 20:21:** "Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'
- **Luke 24: 49:** "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
- **Acts 1:4-8:** "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command,' Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- **Acts 2:1-12:** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked, 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us heard them speaking in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs -we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues."
- **Acts 2:36--39:** "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call."

FIRE

- **Malachi 3:2-5:** "But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites, and refine them like gold and silver. Then The Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to The Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years."
- **Malachi 4:1-3:** "Surely the day is coming, it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,' says The Lord



Almighty. 'Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun on righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,' says The Lord Almighty."

- **Isaiah 43:1-3:** "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am The Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you."
- **Isaiah 33: 14-16:** "The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless. "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with the everlasting burning? He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil - this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied and water will not fail him. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar."
- **Jeremiah 23:29:** "Is not my word like a fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

MONDAY

Why did Jesus have to be baptized?

In **Mathew 3: 13-15**, when John tried to deter Jesus from being baptized by John, Jesus said, "it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."

What does to fulfill all righteousness mean?

His ministry included being an example for us of how to be full of righteousness:

1. Start with a decision to give up our life, which leads to destruction, (Baptism into the water)
2. Begin living a new life (Baptism coming out of the water)
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill and correct our deficiencies, (the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on Jesus following his baptism)
4. Ultimately not love our life so much as to shrink from death (the cross)

Jesus sought baptism not because He needed it as part of a post-repentance process, but to set an example for others (Matt. 3:14, 15)

Three important factors stand out concerning the baptism of Jesus:

1. **John 1:29** - The Baptist's proclamation, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
2. The Holy Spirit's anointing Him for His mission ahead



3. The heavenly proclamation that Jesus is the Son of God, in whom the Father is well pleased.”

Luke 3:21,22 - All 3 of the trinity Godhead show up in this verse - Jesus, Holy Spirit and God's voice from heaven stating that Jesus was His son, and that he was pleased with Him.

God doesn't waste words, so why did he need to say, "with you I am well pleased?"

- Show the unity and mutual support of the Trinity Godhead
- Give Jesus authority in the eyes of the witnesses
- Demonstrate his stamp of approval

Why did the Spirit come down in the shape of a dove?

Gen 8:8-12: Noah sent out a dove 3 times to see if the water had subsided and new growth began.

Matt 10:16: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Why do we baptize each other?

Rom 6: 1-11: "What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live to it any longer, or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead, through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

TUESDAY

“In the wilderness, when the Savior was weak for 40 days of fasting, when the journey ahead looked bleak and wary, Satan took personal command in his attack against Jesus. ‘Satan saw that he must either conquer or be conquered. The issues of this conflict involved too much to be entrusted to his confederate angels. He must personally conduct the warfare’. E G White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 116”



Mathew 4: 1-3 says: That he was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. And that after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him...

Luke 4:1,2 says: “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 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”

So, let's see if we can understand why 40 days, rather than 30, 28, 15, etc

Research through the Bible came up these other instances of 40 days or years (in prophecy a day is counted as a year):

- **Gen. 7: 17-23** - flood 40 days - until everything with breath died
- **Gen. 50:1-3** - Joseph had his father embalmed for 40 days, as that is how long it takes to embalm someone
- **Ex. 16: 35** - Israelites ate manna for 40 years
- **Ex. 24: 18** - Moses on the mountain with God for 40 days and nights
- **Ex. 34:28** - Moses back up on the mountain with God for another 40 days and nights without eating or drinking.
- **Numbers 13:25** - at the end of 40 days, the spies came back from exploring the land of Canaan.
- **Numbers 40:33** - Israelites told by God that they will spend 40 years in the wilderness until all of the people of military age and above were dead, one year for each day the spies were checking out Canaan since they did not trust God. To humble and test them.
- **Deut 8:4** - the Israelites' clothes and sandals did not wear out or their feet swell for the 40 years
- **Joshua 14:6-9** - Caleb was 40 years old when he was sent out to spy the land of Canaan
- **Judges 3:7-11** - the land had rest for 40 years from after Othniel, the brother of Caleb, overcame the king of Aram until he died.
- **Judges 8:28**- the land had peace 40 years after Gideon subdued Midian
- **Judges 13:1** – Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lords, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for 40 years.
- **1 Samuel 4:18** – Eli had led Israel 40 years when he fell backward off his chair, broke his neck and died after hearing that his sons had been killed and the ark was captured.
- **1 Samuel 17:16** – David killed the Philistine Goliath after Goliath had come forward every morning and evening for 40 days to take is stand against Israel.
- **2 Samuel 5:4** – David reigned as king for 40 years
- **1 Kings 11:42** – Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel 40 years
- **1 Kings 19:8** – Elijah was fed by an angel, and strengthened by that food, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.
- **2 Kings 12:1** – Joash reigned as king in Jerusalem 40 years.
- **Ezekiel 4:4-6** – God told Ezekiel to lie on one side 390 days, one day for each year of Israel's sin. Then lie down on the other side for 40 days, one day for each year of Judah's sin.



- **Ezekiel 29:9-16** – God said Egypt and her cities would be a desolate waste for 40 years and disperse the Egyptians among the nations because they said they made the Nile, and mistreated God’s people.. But after 40 years, he would gather the Egyptians and return them to Upper Egypt, where they will be the lowliest of kingdoms and never again exalt itself above the other nations. Israel will never have confidence in Egypt again and will be a reminder of their sin in turning to Egypt for help.
- **Jonah 3:4** – Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that in 40 days, Nineveh would be overthrown.
- **Acts 1:3** – Jesus appeared to his apostles over a 40 day period after his resurrection, speaking about the kingdom of God.

- **Acts 7:23** – When Moses was 40, he killed an Egyptian who was mistreating an Israelite, then fled to Midian to live as a foreigner
- **Acts 7:30** – After 40 years had passed, God appeared to Moses in a bush to begin his leadership of the Israelites.

In the Bible, often one day is symbolic of a year, for instructional purposes, as noted in some of the instances above.

Consider that 40 years is a useful adult lifespan – Israel counted adults from military age up, and priests retired at age 60.

Some quotes from one of the founders of the SDA Church, Ellen G. White:

“Moses was the prospective ruler of Egypt, but God could not take him from the king’s court to do the work appointed him. Only when he had been for forty years a faithful shepherd was he sent to be the deliverer of his people.” Gospel Workers, p. 332 [**My note – note year as a shepherd for each year leading Israel**]

“With Christ, as with the holy pair in Eden, appetite was the ground of the first great temptation. Just where the ruin began, the work of our redemption must begin. As by the indulgence of appetite Adam fell, so by the denial of appetite Christ must overcome.” And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered”...From the time of Adam to that of Christ, self-indulgence had increased the power of the appetites and passions, until they had almost unlimited control. Thus men had become debased and diseased, and of themselves it was impossible for them to overcome. In man’s behalf, Christ conquered by enduring the severest test. For our sake He exercised a self-control stronger than hunger or death. And in this first victory were involved other issues that enter into all our conflicts with the powers of darkness.”

“Christ fought the battle upon the point of appetite, and came off victorious; and we also can conquer through strength derived from him. Who will enter in through the gates into the city? Not those who declare that they cannot break the force of appetite. Christ has resisted the power of him who would hold us in bondage; though weakened by his long fast of forty days,



he withstood temptation, and proved by this act that our cases are not hopeless. I know that we cannot obtain the victory alone; and how thankful we should be that we have a living Savior, who is ready and willing to aid us!" Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene 19.2

"In the wilderness of temptation, Christ was without food forty days. Moses had on especial occasions been thus long without food. But he felt not the pangs of hunger. He was not tempted and harassed by a vile and powerful foe as was the Son of God. He was elevated above the human, and especially sustained by the glory of God which enshrouded him." Confrontation 34.1

Why without food?

"When Jesus entered into the wilderness, He was shut in by the Father's glory⁷. Absorbed in communion with God, He was lifted above human weakness. But the glory departed, and He was left to battle with temptation. It was pressing upon Him every moment. His human nature shrank from the conflict that awaited Him. For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, 'His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.' Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ."

"Christ entered upon the test upon the point of appetite, and for nearly six weeks resisted temptation in behalf of man. That long fast in the wilderness was to be a lesson to fallen man for all time. Christ was not overcome by the strong temptations of the enemy, and this is encouragement for every soul who is struggling against temptation. Christ has made it possible for every member of the human family to resist temptation. All who would live godly lives may overcome as Christ overcame, by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony. That long fast of the Saviour strengthened Him to endure. He gave evidence to man that He would begin the work of overcoming just where ruin began, on the point of appetite." Counsels on Diet and Foods, pages 185, 186.

In our sick state of the ebola of sin, it is hard to resist temptation to eat a snack if it has been a long while since a meal, for example; but if we miss several days of meals, we feel like we could gnaw our arm off! And we aren't the nicest folks to be around when we are "starved", are we? Yet we haven't gone anywhere near 40 days and 40 nights without eating.

It is humanity at its weakest point

The First Temptation:

Satan said to Christ: 'IF you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread' (Luke 4:3).

What is Satan trying to do in this account that reflects what he attempted to do in heaven?'



Jesus had already been confirmed to be the Son of God by God's voice from heaven at his baptism. Bread making wasn't the issue (which would have been a simple thing for the Creator of the universe), it was:

- Doubt in that heavenly assurance. In heaven Satan challenged the authority of Jesus. He does so here as well.
- It was also an attempt to incite Jesus to "save himself"

Who looked more like the Son of God at that point?

Jesus doesn't give His opinion, or take the offensive to back Satan off, but quotes scripture, "It is written, Man does not live on bread alone" (Deut. 8:3).

Satan has no response to this.

WEDNESDAY

The Second Temptation:

Luke 4:4-8: "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, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So IF you worship me, it will all be yours.'

Satan offers all the reward of ownership of the earth, with none of the self sacrifice to get it.

"One of the issues in Lucifer's rebellion against God in heaven is that of worship; well summarized by **Isaiah 14: 13, 14:** 'to ascend to heaven, to exalt his throne above the stars of heaven, to be like the Most High.'

"Satan was trying to divert Christ's perspective from His divine priority and to entice Him with pomp and glory for no greater price than just a bow. He was trying to get the authority and worship that he failed to get in heaven."

Shows Satan has no idea what the Most High is really like, or how to be like the Most High or what real worship is.

Once again, Jesus doesn't give His opinion, or argue, but quotes scripture: Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."' (Deut. 6:13)

Matthew 4:10 indicates that Jesus also said, "Away from me, Satan" during this temptation, clearly showing that Jesus knew exactly who He was dealing with.

Satan has no response to this.



THURSDAY

The Third Temptation

Satan finally decides to quote scripture himself and see if that will work. He knows the scripture, but misinterprets it.

Luke 4:9-12: 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.’ (Ps 91:11, 12)

Here is Jesus on the very temple where God dwells among His people and where they worship Him as God.

OK, if you aren’t going to save your self from starvation or take the world for yourself with just a bow rather than self sacrifice, let God/the angels save you.

Jesus again answered with only scripture: ”It says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (**Deut. 6:16**)

Satan had no answer for this.

“God has indeed promised the protection of his angels, but only in the context of doing His will, such as in the case of Daniel and his companions.”

Is this always the case?

What about good people, God’s people who are killed, raped, tortured, abused in all different ways? Where are the angels protecting them?

Luke 4: 13: “When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.”

Did Satan ever give up tempting Jesus?

Note four major biblical teachings on temptation:

1. No one is free from temptations
2. When God allows temptations to come to us, He also provides grace to resist and strength to overcome
3. Temptations do not come the same way every time
4. No one is tempted beyond his or her strength to bear (**1 Cor. 10:13**)”



FRIDAY

Is temptation sin?

James 1:12-15: “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

In what ways can idolatry be much more subtle than bowing down and worshiping something other than the Lord?

If a person has something or someone else they are passionate about, would you say that thing or person “has their heart?”

Referring to the time when Joseph and Mary headed home from Jerusalem and didn’t realize Jesus was not with them:

“If Joseph and Mary had stayed their minds upon God by meditation and prayer, they would have realized the sacredness of their trust, and would not have lost sight of Jesus. By one day’s neglect, they lost the Saviour; but it cost them three days of anxious search to find Him. So with us; by idle talk, evil speaking, or neglect of prayer, we may in one day lose the Saviour’s presence, and it may take many days of sorrowful search to find him, and regain the peace that we have lost.” EG White, *The Desire of Ages*, p 83