

Luke 4:1-13 – “The Enemy’s Playbook”, July 4, 2021

I. Welcome

A. Good morning! Happy 4th of July! Happy Independence Day.

1. While we may not all be Americans, I think it is good for us all to remember the blessings that come with freedom as we gather this morning to worship the Lord and remember the fact that we have been set free from the bondage of sin, thanks to the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary.
2. I know many of you have some extra time off this week and I pray that the Lord would be with you in yours in all you do.
3. *Welcome any new people and those who may be streaming content.*

B. Before we continue any further, let’s go ahead and dismiss our little ones to their Sunday School classrooms.

C. Well, let’s go ahead and open up our Bibles to the gospel of Luke, chapter 4, as we continue to make our way systematically through this book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse.

1. This morning we’re going to be picking up the account where we last left off with the baptism of Jesus Christ.
2. We’re also going to be taking some time at the conclusion of our service to observe communion together as a church family.
 - a. It’s our practice as a church to set aside some time the first Sunday of each month to remember the Lord; His broken body, His shed blood; the price that He paid for us, that He may secure our freedom from the penalty of our sins.

3. But before we get there, we're going to see what the Lord has for us in His Word.
4. We're going to be covering the first 13 verses of Luke chapter 4 as we look at a portion of Scripture that I'm sure most of you have read from or at least have heard about at one time or another. It's a familiar portion of scripture that records an important event in the life of Christ.
5. The event of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness is recorded for us in three of the four gospels; all of the synoptic gospels contain it; Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John's gospel is the only one that specifically leaves out this event; for whatever reason the Lord led him differently.
6. As we go through our text, we're going to note how the enemy tried to come against our Lord, and how the Lord was able to combat the temptations presented to him.
7. My hope is that we will understand a little bit more about how the enemy operates and how we too can find success and overcome temptation in our own walk with the Lord.
8. The title of our message this morning is "**The Enemy's Playbook**".
9. Will you all please rise to your feet in honor of the Lord and His Word? Follow along in your Bible as I read from mine. Luke writes the following in chapter 4 vs. 1... (*R & P*)

II. Review and Intro

- A. Last we left off we had looked at more of the ministry of John the Baptist and specifically noted his ministry to Jesus as he baptized the Lord in the Jordan River.

1. The baptism was an incredible event. An amazing display of the Lord as God the Father called down from the Heavens, and God the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like that of a dove, and fell upon God the Son as He was praying and had been baptized by John.
 2. What a sight to behold, and an awe-inspiring event to be a part of as the Father's approval boomed from heaven declaring, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."
- B. Well, in our text this morning, we have what may seem like the antithesis to this event.
1. Instead of this amazing, awe-inspiring, display of God among the masses down by the river, we have instead a display of Christ at one of His lowest points, an awful, challenging, and debilitating time of loneliness out in the wilderness.
 2. Often we will go through seasons like this in our own lives. Often it is after those mountain-top experiences that we find ourselves down in the valley where the enemy is waiting.
 - a. Ready to rob us of our joy in the Lord, ready to attack, ready to do his best to distract us and to get us to forget that wonderful time with the Lord.
 - i. It happened to Elijah after his mountain top victory over the prophets of Baal there on Mt. Carmel. The next day as he came down the mountain the enemy was waiting for him in the form of Jezebel the evil queen who swore to take the very life of Elijah.
 - ii. It happened to Peter, James, and John when they came down from their own mountain-top experience with Jesus when He was transfigured right before their eyes.

- The very first thing they encountered when they came down the mountain was a demon possessed boy that the other disciples were incapable of doing anything to help.
- iii. When Moses came down the mountain after meeting with the Lord for 40 days and nights, what did he find? The enemy at work. The people worshipping a golden calf instead of the Lord.
- b. So, this is something we see throughout the Bible, and we can probably attest to seeing it in our lives as well.
 - c. **The Christian life isn't always going to be mountain-top experiences**, we will go through difficulties, we will experience challenges, we will find ourselves in the valley from time to time.
 - i. But the important thing to note is that it is in the valley where we usually see the most growth in our walk with the Lord.
 - ii. It's in the tough times, in the difficulties, that we most often will see genuine progress in our walk with the Lord. He sees us through and brings us out the other side stronger, more refined, and ready to take on the next mountain.
 - iii. While we experience various highs and lows, the Lord remains the constant in our life.
- C. In our account we are going to take note of how the enemy operates and how Jesus combatted the attacks of the enemy.
1. In any battle, it is so important that we know and understand our enemy.
 2. Knowing how the enemy operates, knowing what their tendencies are, knowing their strengths, their

weaknesses is so vital to overcoming anyone in opposition.

a. Whether we're talking military war strategy, or sports games, or even a friendly board game. Knowing your opponent and how they operate will give you a crucial advantage.

3. If we want to see success and continue to walk in the victory Christ has won for us, we need to make sure we are aware of how the enemy operates and how we can combat his tactics.

4. And in our text this morning, Jesus gives us a great example to follow. Let's jump back into to the opening verses of our text as we set the scene.

III. Luke 4:1-2;

A. Mark's gospel tells us that it was immediately after Jesus' baptism that this event took place. **(Mk. 1:12)**

1. So, Jesus went from a time of prayer and the Spirit descending upon Him, straight into a time of temptation and the devil's attacks upon Him.

B. We need to get a few things straight here before we continue.

1. Number 1, I need you all to realize that the devil is real, he's crafty, and he is powerful. But he is not the counterpart to God.

a. Some people think of the devil as the counterpart to God, the equal to God. As if there was a good God and a bad god. This is not true.

b. The devil is a created angelic being. He is not all-powerful, he is not omni-present, he is not omniscient. He is not a god.

c. There is only one God and there are none like Him. He is incomparable, unparalleled, matchless, and

supreme. The devil is nothing compared to the Lord.

2. Number 2, we need to understand that the devil is constantly bringing accusations against the Lord and against the Lord's people.
 - a. The Greek word for "devil" literally means false accuser. The Hebrew word "Satan" means the same thing.
 - b. His title tells us what he loves to do. He loves to bring false accusations against the Lord and the people of the Lord trying to divide us without any reason.
 - c. He is a slanderer, wanting to spread lies and falsehoods for the scriptures tell us that he is the father of lies.
 - d. John 8:44 tells us the devil was a murderer from the beginning, and that he "does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." (**Jn. 8:44b**)
3. Now another thing that is important for us to note is that not only was Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit, but he was led by the Spirit as well, *into* this wilderness experience.
 - a. Some people have the false assumption that the Holy Spirit will always lead them beside the still waters as described in Psalm 23.
 - i. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." (**Ps. 23:1-3**)

- ii. Some people stop there and think that life with the Lord at the lead means nothing but green pastures, still waters, and wonderful peaceful paths of righteousness.
 - iii. But the psalm continues. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (**Ps. 23:4**)
 - iv. God leads us to, and through, both places.
- b. Jesus was being led by the Spirit into a long and difficult time of testing and the Spirit may do the same in our own lives.
- c. The Bible has a few things to say about testing and tempting that we need to understand.
- i. There are two Greek terms which have the idea of testing someone for a purpose.
 - ii. One is “dokimazo” [dok-im-ad-zo]. This term is a metallurgist term for testing the genuineness of something by fire. The fire reveals the true metal by burning off (purifying) the dross. This physical process became a powerful idiom for God and/or humans testing others. This term is used only in a positive sense of testing with view towards acceptance.
 - Scriptures like **1 Corinthians 3:13** come to mind where Paul writes of our works and how “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”
 - And **1 Pt. 1:7** that speaks about our faith. Peter writes that our faith, “being much more precious than gold that perishes, through it is tested by

fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”

- Even the OT uses this same type of language as it states in Proverbs, “the refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts.” (**Pro. 17:3**)

iii. The other word is the Greek word “peirazo” [pi-rad-zo]. This term has the connotation of examination for the purpose of fault finding or rejection.

- It is used in connection with temptation and trials. It speaks of setting a trap or attempting to catch in a mistake.
- The religious leaders tested Jesus on numerous occasions trying to trap Him, or get Him to say something that could be used against Him.
- This is the word that is used in our text this morning when it says that Jesus was being tempted for forty days by the devil.
- The devil was wanting to find fault with Jesus. He was wanting to get Jesus to do or say something that he could accuse Him of and try to trap Him with.

iv. Now interestingly enough these words are sometimes used together, like in James.

- **James 1:2-3** states, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials [a form of the word peirazo], knowing that the testing [a form of the word dokimazo] of your faith produces patience.”
 - It’s possible for the Lord to use something in a good sense that the enemy purposed for

evil. Something that was meant to be a trap, a trial, a temptation, can be used by the Lord to test us, and work in us the things He longs to; like patience.

- Joseph is the classic example of this, right? His brothers sold him into slavery, but God used it for good. Joseph declared, “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

(Gen. 50:20)

- James later states, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation [a form of peirazo]; for when he has been approved [a form of dokimazo], he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” **(James 1:12)**
 - Again, enduring something perhaps meant for bad, “temptation”, and God turning it into something that is able to prove or test us and reveal our love for the Lord.
- James continues saying, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin’ and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” **(James 1:13-15)**
- **God will test us, but He will never tempt us.** He will give us opportunities to have our faith tested, strengthened, proved in the fire, but He will never tempt us to do evil.

4. Back to our text. Hopefully we understand the differences in how God uses testing for our good, and how the enemy tries to use temptation for our bad. In our text, Jesus is being led by God, led by the Spirit, but is being tempted by the devil.

C. The later part of verse 2 tells us that Jesus has not eaten for 40 days and at the end of the 40 days we're told that He was hungry.

1. This is important for us to note. When someone fasts, they will feel hunger for the first few days, but once they get beyond about four or five days their hunger will subside. The body will start to tap into their fat reserves as fuel.

2. The fact that Jesus is feeling hunger again here, indicates to us that His body has depleted all of its reserves and he is basically starting to starve to death.

3. Physically, he would be extremely fatigued and weak. His physical body is beginning to fail him.

D. Let's continue in our text looking at the first attempt of the devil to get Jesus to fall.

IV. Luke 4:3-4;

A. At the end of the 40 days, with Jesus literally beginning to starve to death, the devil comes along and tells Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

1. Understand that the devil is not questioning whether or not Jesus is the Son of God. When it says "if", it can also be understood as "since". It was as if the devil was saying, "Since you are the Son of God, go ahead and turn those stones into bread."

2. The devil knew that Jesus was more than able to do so. But again that wasn't his angle. The devil wasn't

simply trying to get Jesus to prove He was capable of turning stones to bread. He knew He could do it.

3. So, what is his angle then? Well, what the devil is doing is appealing to the flesh of Jesus. He's trying to get Jesus to use His divine resources to feed his flesh.

4. The devil is saying, "*since you are the Son of God, why be hungry? Why not just make some bread for yourself? It would be no big deal, I mean you've been out here for 40 days. Eat something already.*"

B. The enemy of our souls uses the same bag of tricks over and over again. The enemy's playbook really only has three main plays in it. Three main ways he tries to tempt us and get us to fall away from the Lord.

1. They are outlined for us in the book of 1 John. John writes, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." (1 Jn. 2:15-16)

2. The enemy's playbook involves elements of those three things—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The enemy doesn't need a whole lot of variation because he has found that these three things are simple and effective in getting us to fall.

3. He's been using these same tactics ever since the beginning way back in the Garden of Eden. Satan was successful in getting the first Adam to fall by using these tactics and so he is going to try and use them against the last Adam as well.

C. Here the devil pulls out the lust of the flesh, just like he did with Eve in the garden.

1. There the devil got Eve to doubt God's Word and God's love and care for her. He basically told her that

God was holding out on her. Keeping the best for Himself and denying her the opportunity to satisfy the flesh with all the fruit in the garden, not just the ones that were God approved. [**Gen. 3:5**]

2. Here he seems to do similarly. As if to say, *“Aren’t you God’s beloved Son, why are you so hungry? Why has God not provided you any food while out here? He’s holding out on you. You need to provide food for yourself and satisfy your flesh. You’re dying out here.”*
3. The devil even does the same to us. When he says, *“Go ahead, you deserve it. Why should everyone else have all the fun. Give in and satisfy the flesh, it’s ok, you’re already a child of God, it won’t matter.”*
4. But there is another thing that the devil is doing that is a little more subtle. He’s asking Jesus to separate the physical from the spiritual.
 - a. *“Feeding your flesh, is just a natural physical thing, it doesn’t have anything to do with the spiritual. Go ahead and turn those stones into bread.”*
 - b. Whenever we start dividing things in our life into the realms of the physical and the spiritual, we are bound to leave God out of areas He rightfully belongs.
 - i. We may divide life into work, play, family, God, ministry, hobbies, vacation, and what not. But when we do so we leave God out of areas of our life that He was meant to be and needs to be.
 - ii. In fact, He needs to be part of our every part of life. God must be first in everything. We must consider Him in all our facets of life. We must put Him first. Jesus said, *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (**Mt. 6:33**)

iii. God needs to permeate all facets of our life. We need to consider the Lord and the spiritual when it comes to our work, our play, our family, our vacation, our hobbies. He needs to be part of everything.

c. The devil was trying to separate the spiritual from the physical. Saying that fulfilling the physical flesh didn't have anything to do with the spiritual. But he was wrong, and Jesus withstood his temptation.

D. Jesus responded to the devil's tactic by quoting the Word.

1. The Word of God is our only offensive weapon in the armor of God. It is the sword of the Spirit according to Ephesians 6:17. (**Eph. 6:17b**)

2. And we must learn to properly wield this sword in combatting the attacks of the enemy.

3. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8. There in Dt. 8, Moses is recounting to the people how God sustained their physical bodies while wandering through the desert for those 40 years and how God provided Manna from heaven in order to feed them.

a. The people needed to trust God and His promise to give them the land and see them through the desert.

b. **Deuteronomy 8:3** states, 'So He [referring to God] humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.'

c. Jesus knew His mission, He knew God's promise, He knew why He came to this earth, and He knew that God's wasn't going to allow Him to die out in the

wilderness, just like He didn't allow the Israelites to die out in the wilderness.

4. Jesus didn't need to take matters into His own hands. He could and would continue to allow God to provide for Him all his physical and spiritual needs. **He trusted in God's Word to meet His every need.**

E. Well, the enemy wasn't done yet. He had more up his sleeve. Let's read verses 5-8 to see what happened next.

V. Luke 4:5-8;

A. When the lust of the flesh didn't work, the devil moved on to his next play. This time trying to trap Jesus through the lust of the eyes.

1. In what was more than likely some sort of vision, the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and declared he would give it all to Jesus, if Jesus would simply worship before Satan.
2. Satan claimed that the kingdoms of the world had been delivered to him. And Jesus didn't refute his claim. When and how did the devil obtain dominion over this world.
3. Once again we go back to the garden, back to the beginning in Genesis. God had made the world and everything in it. He subsequently relinquished dominion over the earth to man.
 - a. After creating Adam and Eve God declared to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (**Gen. 1:28**)
4. But when Adam and Eve partook of the fruit and listened and yielded to Satan, they, in effect, gave to him dominion over this world.

- a. Though Adam and Eve were meant to rule, they yielded their rule to Satan by listening to him rather than listening to the Lord.
- b. That is why Paul describes the devil as “the god of this age”, “or the god of this world” in many of the other contemporary translations. (**2 Co. 4:4**)
- c. Later in John’s gospel Jesus refers to the devil as the ruler of this world and notes how he will be cast out. (**Jn. 12:31**)

5. So, it would appear that the dominion over the world has been delivered to Satan and so his offer here is valid. But what is his angle? What is he really doing here?

B. Satan knew that Jesus would ultimately rule and reign. He knew that his hold upon the world was temporary. What he basically offered to Jesus was a short cut.

- 1. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of this world that He would eventually rule over and offered it to Him right then and there. He was saying He could rule and reign over the earth without having to go the cross.
- 2. He was offering to Jesus all the glory of ruling and reigning over the earth without any of the suffering.
 - a. You see the path Jesus was currently on, had him first going through major suffering prior to entering into His glory.
 - b. The devil’s offer was, you don’t need to suffer, you don’t need to go through all of that, I’ll give you the glory now, I’ll give you all the kingdoms now. All you have to do is bow down and worship me.

C. Jesus responded yet again with the Word of the Lord, again quoting from Deuteronomy, stating, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

1. This quote came from Deuteronomy 6:13. There in Deuteronomy 6, Moses was warning the people about forgetting the Lord and going after the idols of the land after they had entered into it.
2. He said, “beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you. (**Dt. 6:12-14**)
3. You see, the lust of the eyes doesn't refer only to looking at something that would tempt or stimulate you to do wrong. The lust of the eyes is seeing any other way than God's to accomplish His purpose.
 - a. The devil was tempting Jesus, telling him that He didn't have to do it God's way, but that He could have it all without the cross, if He would simply bow down and worship Him.
 - b. The devil offered Jesus the glory of ruling without the sacrifice, without the suffering of the cross.
 - c. But God's plan was to first endure great suffering before entering into glory.
 - d. The devil always tries to tempt us this way. He offers glory and pleasure for a short season that ultimately ends in great pain and suffering.
 - i. Sin is pleasurable for a season, but its end is pain and suffering; death.
 - e. God's way is the opposite. God's way is to start with suffering and end with glory. (**1 Pt. 5:10**)
 - i. He has us endure a little pain and suffering, but our end is glory and pleasure forevermore in the presence of our Lord.

- ii. The choice is ours. Have passing pleasure now and suffering for eternity, or endure some slight suffering in order to reap an everlasting glory.
- 4. Jesus knew that the moment He bowed down to worship Satan, He would fail the Father's mission. Jesus would have broken the 1st of the 10 commandments and failed to be the sinless lamb of God able to take away the sins of the world.
- 5. The offer was to rule over a bunch of sinners that would never be able to become saints because Jesus would not have been able to pay the price for our sins in order to redeem us.
- 6. Jesus overcame this temptation by reaffirming His choice **to do things God's way** and to worship and serve God alone. He would not take any short cuts, but was fully submitted to God's plan.
 - a. Jesus knew that whatever we worship, we will serve. And if he bowed down to worship Satan, He would be serving him and not the Lord.
 - b. Serving the Lord involves true freedom, but serving the devil is terrible bondage. Jesus knew this and there was no way he would bow down and worship and serve the devil.

D. Well the enemy had one more play in his playbook, one more tactic to try and exploit Jesus in His moment of weakness. Read verses 9-12 with me.

VI. Luke 4:9-12;

A. Satan, catching on to Jesus' tactic of relying upon the word of God was able to quote some scripture Himself in this final attempt to trap Jesus and get Him to fall.

- 1. The devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, set Him on the highest point of the temple and told him to jump down.

And that the angels would catch Him and bring him safely to the ground.

2. The idea is that there would be all sorts of people there to see this magnificent display of God's power. All would see it and clamor about Jesus and see Him as some sort of powerful being able to do the miraculous.
- B. The devil was pulling out that last trick that was one of his favorites, one that led to the fall of countless men before and after the Lord; the pride of life.
1. It was as if Satan was saying, *“Man, can you imagine the crowds that will flock to see you and hear you if you perform this great display of your power. If you will jump from this peak and allow God’s angels to catch you and safely transport you to the ground, then it will show all the people who you really are. It will show them how powerful you are.”*
 2. The pride of life is the temptation for excess greatness or power
 3. This is how Satan got Eve to take of the fruit. He got her to think that partaking of the fruit would make her like God. He tempted her to want something greater than what God had given to her. She wanted more power and more influence, she wanted to be like God and she partook and shared it with Adam. (**Gen. 3:6**)
 4. So, this tactic has worked before, but to add good measure to his offer, Satan even added some scripture of his own.
 - a. He was quoting from **Psalm 91:11-12**. The Psalm describes God’s protection for those who trust Him. And of course, the devil is twisting the Scriptures to make them say something that it doesn’t really say.
 - b. In context, the psalm promises God’s protection for those who, while being in his will and serving him

find themselves in danger. It does not promise protection for artificially created crises in which we call to God in order to test His love and care for us. We should not test God, which is exactly how Jesus responded.

C. Jesus said, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

1. This was a quote from Deuteronomy once again. This time chapter 6 verse 16. There Moses reminded the people not to tempt the Lord as they had done previously in Massah. (**Dt. 6:16**)
2. Massah was the location where the people complained about not having any water and tempted the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?” (**Ex. 17:7**)
 - a. The people were demanding of Moses and God a powerful sign to prove that He was with them. They were testing the Lord.
3. Jesus knew that to jump would be putting the Lord to the test, demanding of Him to prove Himself. Jesus didn’t need to do so. He didn’t need the approval and favor of man. He had God the Father’s approval and that was enough for Him.
4. The temptation to do something spectacular to gain an audience and give to Jesus some favor with man, was not part of His mission. It was not part of God’s plan and so He rejected the temptation of the devil.
5. Jesus overcame the temptation of the pride of life by **balancing scripture with scripture**. He didn’t allow the enemy to twist God’s Word into something that would lead him to test the Lord.
6. Most cults out there are based upon scripture. They take certain texts and verses and strip them from their

overall context, or twist the scriptures into saying something that they really don't mean.

7. We need to be good students of the Word in order to be able to spot when the Word of God is being twisted or manipulated and used in a dishonoring way.
8. We need to understand the whole counsel of God that we can rightly detect something that doesn't line up with the totality of Scripture.

D. Well, let's read this final verse and wrap up our time of study.

VII. Luke 4:13;

A. The Scriptures attest, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.", and that is exactly what we see here in our text. (**James 4:7**)

1. Jesus resisted the attempts of the devil to get him to stumble and fall, and the devil departed.

B. But note that while this season of temptation in the wilderness had come to an conclusion, it didn't mean that Jesus would never face the devil again.

1. The devil departed from Him and waited for another opportune time to once again come against Jesus and try to thwart God's plan.
2. One victory over sin and temptation does not mean you will never again be tempted. We must continue to fight the good fight, continue to win the battles as they come our way. We need to be ready for the attacks of the enemy and not allow ourselves to be caught off-guard.
3. The devil is always looking for an opportune time to attack. Don't give him any.

C. I want you to note that **everything that Jesus used in his fight** against the enemy is something that is readily

available to each and every one of us who have called upon the name of the Lord.

1. Jesus as we noted last week was a man of prayer. He was a man filled with the Holy Spirit, and led by the Spirit. And He was a man that was properly equipped with the Word of God.
2. None of the things at Jesus' disposal were things that aren't at ours as well. We can pray, we have the Holy Spirit inside of us, who will lead us and guide us, and we have the Word of God available to us.
3. And even on top of that we have Jesus Christ interceding on our behalf before the throne of the Father. If we would take full advantage of all the Lord offers to us, we too will be able to cause the devil to flee just as Jesus did.

VIII. Conclusion / Communion

A. Well this morning we're going to close our service by taking a few minutes to remember the Lord and His sacrifice for us through communion.

1. Jesus Christ was a man like us. He was tempted like us but without sin.
2. The author of Hebrews writes, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (**Heb. 4:14-16**).
3. So that is what we're going to do this morning. I want to encourage you all to boldly come to the throne of

grace and remember what Christ has done for you and ask Him to help you walk in victory.

4. When Paul gave instructions to the church in Corinth regarding communion, he told them to examine themselves. He wrote, “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (**1 Co. 11:28**)
 5. That word “examine” is the same word in the Greek we discussed earlier regarding the kind of testing used by metallurgists. A testing as by fire to prove what is good, to purify the precious metals within.
 6. God wants us to test ourselves. To examine our own lives, to allow the fire to burn away any impurities, anything that is not honoring of the Lord.
 7. As you spend time before the throne of grace, I want to encourage you to pray and ask God to help you examine yourself. Ask God to show you any impurities that need to be burned away.
 8. Pray like David who said, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” (**Ps. 139:23-24**)
- B. The worship team is going to come up and the ushers are going to pass out the communion elements. As you receive the elements remember that the bread represents the broken body of our Lord. How his body was broken for us before the cross. And remember that the cup represents His shed blood that washes us and cleanses us from all sin.
1. I’m going to step down. I won’t be reading from any other texts this morning. I want to encourage you all to partake as the Lord leads you. After a while, Nick will call us to stand in worship and partake if we haven’t already and then He will dismiss us after that.

2. May God continue to minister to you as you spend this time with Him. May His grace be upon you, and may your communion with Him be sweet and intimate. God bless.