

HEAR LUKE 4
Submitted by Bill Barfield

Highlight: *“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. He ate nothing during these days, and at the end of them He was hungry.” Luke 4: 1-2*

Explain: This passage follows Jesus’ baptism where he was affirmed as God’s son and the Holy Spirit descended on Him. Luke highlights that Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” and “led by the Spirit into the wilderness”. This was a divine appointment for preparation before his public ministry. 40 days of fasting and temptation show that Jesus, while fully divine, was also fully human and experienced the same temptations that we do. Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, uses scripture to combat the devil’s tests and prove He was without sin. It shows that even when we are walking in obedience and filled with the Spirit, we will face temptations or “wilderness times” in our lives.

Apply: First this passage reminds me that temptation is not a sin in itself, but an opportunity to rely on God. It also encourages us that being led by the Spirit doesn’t ensure us that life is easy. There will be wilderness seasons in our life. Throughout the bible, the wilderness isn’t just a location, it is a spiritual battleground. We can spend time complaining, worrying or wallowing in it or focus being filled with the same Spirit and trust God’s purpose in all circumstances, knowing He is faithful even during our struggles. The wilderness is like a refiner’s fire where we are purified and our hearts prepared.

Respond: Heavenly Father, thank you that you do not leave me to face temptations alone. Thank you for the example of Jesus, who knows my human weakness and struggles. Help me to be more intentional about seeking your Spirit’s guidance daily and relying on your power, not on my own strength when I face temptations or “wilderness” moments. Give me the grace to trust your purpose in challenging times and strength to resist the devil.

Amen.