

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 4:1-8

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week, we will read Luke chapter 4. Today, we will read verses 1-8.

In chapter three we read that John the Baptist grew up in the wilderness of Judea, west of the Dead Sea. He wore a garment of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. When the time came for him to begin his ministry, he came out of the wilderness to the region of the Jordan River and baptized people in the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance. John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus. When Jesus was about thirty years old, He also came to the Jordan, and in order to fulfill all righteousness, He was baptized by John.

At the moment He was baptized, as He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Father Himself spoke to Him, bearing witness and saying, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

It appears that during the first thirty years of Jesus' life on earth, throughout this long period of testing, He lived fully according to the will of God. Not only did He never sin, but in everything He followed God's heart. Therefore, at His baptism, the Father came forth to give His summary verdict: "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." It was as if God were saying, "I have watched You for thirty years." Chapter 4:1 then follows immediately after Jesus' baptism.

Verses 1–2a: "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil."

Before Jesus began His public ministry, He first received the baptism of John in order to fulfill all righteousness. After that, He was completely filled with the Holy Spirit,

and the Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus was utterly obedient; He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. As Jesus was about to begin His earthly ministry, the sequence was this: first, in order to fulfill all righteousness, He was baptized by John; then the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness and delivered Him into the hands of the devil, where for forty days He was tempted by the devil.

Forty is the number of testing in human experience, and the wilderness is the place of temptation. Moses also spent forty years in the wilderness. Scripture does not clearly tell us how the devil tempted Jesus during those forty days, but one thing is certain: Jesus stood entirely in the position of the Son of Man and overcame every kind of temptation and enticement of the devil.

Verse 2b: “And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.”

We can imagine that after Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and went into the wilderness, He fasted for forty days—fasting while praying, being filled with the Spirit, and abiding with the Father. When the forty days were completed, Jesus became hungry. It was precisely at the moment when human existence most urgently needs sustenance that the devil launched his final and most severe three temptations against Jesus.

At the end of chapter three, when Luke records Jesus’ genealogy, he traces it backward from Jesus all the way to Adam, concluding by saying that Adam was the son of God. In Luke’s mind, he clearly intends to set Jesus in contrast with Adam. Adam was the first man created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden. He too was tempted by the devil—and he failed. He sinned, and through that one man sin entered the world, bringing all humanity to be born in sin and to die in sin. Jesus is the last Adam. Just as the devil tempted the first Adam in the Garden of Eden and overcame him, so now, in the last Adam—Jesus—the devil begins his most severe and final three tests.

Verse 3: “And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’”

The devil knew that after forty days Jesus was hungry, and so he came to challenge Him. “If You are the Son of God”—the devil clearly knew that Jesus was the Son of God, and he also knew that Jesus had the power to turn stones into bread. In other words, knowing that Jesus was hungry, he urged Him to turn a stone into bread to meet His physical need for survival. In all these temptations, Jesus consistently stood in the position of the Son of Man.

We know that Jesus is one hundred percent God and also one hundred percent man. If He had stood in His position as God to defeat Satan, that would have been entirely natural and expected. But if He had done so, He could not have saved us—those who sinned in Adam. He had to stand completely in the position of a man to overcome Satan, so that He could deliver us who were enslaved by sin. The devil even chose the moment when Jesus was hungry, when survival needs pressed most strongly, to tempt Him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus rejected this temptation.

Verse 4: “But Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

Jesus replied that yes, human life has physical needs, but more important than these is every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The Word of God is our spiritual food. The word used here is not logos but rhema. Logos refers to God’s word concerning His will, while rhema refers to the timely word—the word of supply. As we know and apply God’s Word in our daily lives, it becomes rhema to us, a source of provision and help.

Jesus directly quoted Scripture: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” This comes from Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV). Indeed, humans have physical needs—we hunger, we feel cold, we need food, clothing, and shelter. But beyond these necessities, what is more important is every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

What is God's will? And how is God's will applied to my life today? Our Father knows our physical needs. We are His children, and He will provide. Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Consider the lilies of the field: they neither toil nor spin, yet even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Are we not much more valuable than these flowers? We are God's children, and God surely cares for our needs. Therefore, do not worry about what you will eat, what you will wear, or where you will live. Today, Satan still uses these same things to tempt every child of God.

Food, clothing, and shelter are necessities for survival, but if we focus all our attention on these things, we fall into Satan's trap and cannot overcome his temptations. We must turn our focus toward God and toward every word He speaks to us. When we receive our supply from God's Word, our heavenly Father will naturally take care of our daily needs.

Verse 5: "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time."

After Jesus overcame the temptation concerning physical survival, the devil immediately moved to the next step, taking Him to a high place where He could see all the kingdoms of the world. Luke's phrase "all the kingdoms of the world" particularly refers to these kingdoms as systematically organized. We know that everything in the universe was created by the Father and operates according to the laws of life. But Satan systematizes these things, no longer according to the principle of life, but according to the principle of worldly gain.

Verse 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.'"

What he said here was, in fact, not incorrect. Satan is still the ruler of this world today. When humanity fell in Genesis chapter three, although Satan was judged,

that judgment has not yet been executed. Until Jesus returns, Satan remains the ruler of this world. After systematizing the world, he offers authority and glory to anyone who is willing to submit under his rule.

Verse 7: “Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

Satan is willing to give all these things, but his condition is that you must worship him. He organizes everything God created into a system of profit, with the aim of enticing people to worship him. God alone is the source of all authority. Human beings were created by God and are meant to worship Him. But in order to steal worship from humanity, Satan offers everything within his system to those who are willing to bow down before him.

Verse 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.’”

This verse comes from Deuteronomy 6:13. The best way to resist Satan’s temptations is through the Word of God—the Scriptures. Jesus was thoroughly familiar with Scripture, and He clearly understood Satan’s schemes. On the surface, it sounds simple: worship me, and I will give you everything. But in reality, it is not simple at all. The verse Jesus quoted says, “You shall worship the LORD your God.” God alone is worthy of worship; He alone is the source of all authority. Then it adds, “And Him only you shall serve.” Whom you worship, you will serve—this is a biblical principle.

When you worship money, you serve money. What does it mean to serve money? It means working day and night to earn it, devoting all the time and energy of your life to its service. What we worship is what we serve. In Satan’s system, everything is designed to use you up. When you worship him, you must serve him, and when you serve him, your entire life is consumed.

The temptations Satan presented to Jesus continue today against every child of God. May God help us so that, from Jesus, we may learn how to resist Satan's temptations.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. In the Scriptures You have given us such a wonderful example, teaching us that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. We also know that we are to worship the Lord our God and serve Him only. Help me, in the people, matters, and circumstances I encounter today, to learn to face every situation with Your Word. In all things, help me to turn to You alone and worship You alone. Bless my life this day. We pray in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.