

# Christ confronts, Christ cares

## a. Confronting the Devil (4:1-13)

### **4:1-4 How does the Devil's strategy echo another ancient scene? (Gen.3:1-6)**

[1] That old serpent who tempted Adam to sin in Paradise, was not afraid to assault the second Adam, the Son of God. Whether he understood that Jesus was "God manifest in the flesh" may perhaps be doubted. But that he saw in Jesus One who had come into the world to overthrow his kingdom, is clear and plain. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke* Vol 1 p.108

[2] [Satan] ... attempts to make us distrust God and consult our own advantage in a way not authorized by his word ... "When you see that you are forsaken by God, you are driven by necessity to attend to yourself. Provide then for yourself the food which God does not supply you." **J. Calvin** *Luke* p.213

[3] You will say that these are very small sins, and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts,

Your affectionate uncle **SCREWTAPE** [conversation between lesser demon and higher demon] **C.S. Lewis** *The Screwtape Letters* pp. 64,65

### **4:5-8 If the Devil can't choke you with food, what is his second choice? (Daniel 3:1-7; 4:28-32)**

[4] Let it be noted, that as the devil promised liberally to Eve, "Ye shall be as Gods," so he promised liberally to our Lord. But as his promise to Eve was a lie, so his promise to our Lord was a

deception. He promised that which he had no power to give. He is undoubtedly called "prince of this world," but he has no power to give dominion over it without God's permission. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke* Vol 1 p. 113



### **C.S. Lewis**

"Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts ..."

- Screwtape to his nephew, an apprentice demon, in *The Screwtape Letters*

[5] The old highway robbers never took any risk with a poor man, but always watched for one who had plenty of money upon him. In like manner it is the new convert, the rich soul, the successful Christian worker, that the devil attacks, for he would rob us of our riches ... It is those who are obedient, endowed, and well-pleasing to God who are especial objects of the enemy's stratagems. To be left unmolested by Satan is no evidence of spiritual vigour. Seasons of fiercest temptation frequently follow seasons of greatest blessing. **W. Graham Scroggie** *Tested by Temptation* p.11

### **4:9-13 If pleasure doesn't work, nor pride & power, what ace remains in the Devil's hand? (Ex.20:1-6; Dan.3)**

[6] Satan made out that the promise was unconditioned, and in this way he perverted the Scripture. He would have Christ promise to Himself more than God had pledged, and in this way, through quoting a correct principle, he made of it a wrong application ... There is nothing more common than misquotation and misapplication of Holy Scripture. Every heresy under the sun can appeal to Scripture, after that fashion, in proof of itself. **W. Graham Scroggie** *Tested by Temptation* p.57

[7] Notice that on all three occasions Jesus countered the temptations by quoting Deuteronomy and in fact from the restricted area between 6:13 and 8:3. These chapters

refer to the wilderness experiences of Israel, the people of God. It may well be that Jesus had given a lot of thought to these passages as He reflected on the mission to which God was calling Him. **L. Morris** *Luke* p. 104

## **What three weapons did Satan wield?**

[11] Satan's first device was to persuade our Lord to distrust His Father's providential care ... second device was to persuade our Lord to grasp at worldly power by unlawful means ... concession was small. The promise was large ... last device was to persuade our Lord to an act of presumption ... three favorite weapons of the devil. Unbelief, worldliness, and presumption are three grand engines which he is ever working against the soul of man, and

by which he is ever enticing him to do what God forbids, and to run into sin. Let us remember this, and be on our guard. The acts that Satan suggests to us to do, are often in appearance trifling and unimportant. But the principle involved in each of these little acts, we may be sure, is nothing short of rebellion against God. Let us not be ignorant of Satan's devices. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke* Vol 1 pp.110-111

[8] The narrative should be conclusive as to the fact of his personality. If the Bible be true, Satan is an evil person and not merely an evil influence. There is as much evidence for believing in the personality of the devil as in the personality of God. This is witnessed by the titles applied to him, by the works attributed to him, and by the judgment pronounced against him. Never in Scripture is the word "devil" used to personify evil in either man or the world, but always to signify an evil, personal spirit. Those who offer him little or no resistance are inclined to deny his existence. **W. Graham Scroggie** *Tested by Temptation* p.8

[9] That mighty spirit who did not fear to attack Jesus himself, is still going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. That murderer and liar who vexed Job, and overthrew David and Peter, still lives, and is not yet bound. If he cannot rob us of heaven, he will at any rate make our journey thither painful. If he cannot destroy our souls, he will at least bruise our heels. (Gen. 3:15.) Let us beware of despising him, or thinking lightly of his power. Let us rather put on the whole armour of God, and cry to the strong for strength. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7.) **J.C. Ryle** *Luke Vol 1* p. 109

## **b. Rejected by His Hometown (4:14-30)**

### **4:14-16 Note the religious habit of the Messiah Himself! (Heb.3:12,13; 10:23-25)**

[10] In the days when our Lord was on earth, the Scribes and Pharisees were the chief teachers of the Jews. We can hardly suppose that a Jewish synagogue enjoyed much of the Spirit's presence and blessing under such teaching. Yet even then we find our Lord visiting a synagogue, and reading and preaching in it. It was the place where His Father's day and word were publicly recognized, and, as such, He thought it good to do it honour. We need not doubt that there is a practical lesson for us in this part of our Lord's conduct. He would have us know that we are not lightly to forsake any assembly of worshippers, which professes to respect the name, the day, and the book of God. There may be many things in such an assembly which might be done better. There may be a want of fulness, clearness, and distinctness in the doctrine preached. There may be a lack of unction and devoutness in the manner in which the worship is conducted. But so long as no positive error is taught, and there is no choice between worshipping with such an assembly, and having no public worship at all, it becomes a Christian to think much before he stays away. If there be but two or three in the congregation who meet in the name of Jesus, there is a special blessing promised. But there is no like blessing promised to him who tarries at home. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke Vol 1* p. 115

Do we lightly esteem the name, the day, and the book of God? Are we imitating the Lord's synagogue habit? Are we as serious with our Bible as the surgeon is with his studies?

### **4:17-21 What was the emphasis in Messiah's self-understanding? (Isaiah 61:1,2)**

### **4:22-27 Despite the appearance of things (vv.15,20,22), how does Christ display His prophetic powers? (Isa.53:1-3)**

### **4:28-30 Note the irony - Christ goes from peak to peak! (v.9)**

[12] [4:28-30] As far as is known Jesus never returned to Nazareth. Rejection can be final. In all this we have a commentary on the third temptation. The people tried to put Jesus into the position Satan had suggested. But He did not let them. **Leon Morris** *Luke* p. 108

[13] Of all the doctrines of the Bible none is so offensive to human nature as the doctrine of God's sovereignty. To be told that God is great, and just, and holy, and pure, man can bear. But to be told that "he hath mercy on whom He will have mercy," ... that it is "not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy," - these are truths that natural man cannot stand. ... the sovereignty of God is a doctrine clearly revealed in the Bible, and a fact clearly to be seen in the world. Upon no other principle can we ever explain why some members

## **What made Christ's weapon superior to Satan's?**

[16] Holy Scripture was His weapon of defence, and His rule of action. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke Vol 1* p. 112

[17] *We must know God's Word.* There is no reason why any believer should be ignorant of his Bible. The Word of God is available to us in many translations ... There are multitude of Bible study helps available ... If an intelligent believer today does not know his Bible, it is his or her own fault! This means, of course, taking time to *read* and *study* the Bible. No one will master God's Word in a lifetime of study, but we should learn all we can. We must *make* time, not "find time," to read and study the Word of God. Just as a machinist studies the shop manual, and the surgeon studies his medical texts, so the Christian must study the Word of God. Bible study is not a luxury; it is a necessity ... *We must meditate on God's Word.* Meditation is to the inner man what digestion is to the outer man. If you did not digest your food, you would sicken and die. **Warren W. Wiersbe**

*The Strategy of Satan* pp. 29,30

[18] He who was "full of the Holy Ghost," was yet not ashamed to make the Holy Scripture His weapon of defence, and His rule of action. Let us learn from this single fact, if we learn nothing else from this wondrous history, the high authority of the Bible, and the immense value of a knowledge of its contents. Let us read it, search into it, pray over it, diligently, perseveringly unweariedly. Let us strive to be so thoroughly acquainted with its pages, that its texts may abide in our memories, and stand ready at our right hand in the day of need. Let us be able to appeal from every perversion and false interpretation of its meaning, to those thousand plain passages, which are written as it were with a sunbeam. The Bible is indeed a sword, but we must take heed that we know it well, if we would use it with effect. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke Vol 1* p. 111

of a family are converted, and others live and die in sin, why some quarters of the earth are enlightened by Christianity, and others remain buried in heathenism. **J.C. Ryle** *Luke* Vol 1 pp.122

### **c. The Compassion of the Lord (4:31-44)**

#### **4:31,32 What is the reaction of Capernaum to Messiah's teaching? (vv.14,15; Isaiah 52:13,14)**

[14] [4:31,32] Jesus teaching caused astonishment, because He taught *with authority*. Originality was not highly prized among the rabbis and it was usual to accredit one's words by citing illustrious predecessors. For example, R. Eliezer piously disavowed novelty: 'nor have I ever in my life said a thing which I did not hear from my teachers' ... Jesus did no such thing and the authority with which He spoke impressed men. **Leon Morris** *Luke* p. 109

#### **4:33-37 Contrast the realization of the demons with the reaction of the residents of Capernaum**

[15] [4:34] The demon's claim to know who Jesus is may represent an attempt to gain power over him through knowledge of his name. **I. Howard Marshall** *Luke* p. 193

#### **4:38,39 What is the little lesson here re the purpose of the Suffering Servant (remember, this image of Messiah becomes Peter's favourite text in Acts)? (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)**

#### **4:40-44 Is Christ's compassion crippled by the fickleness of Galilee? (Isaiah 53:12)**