

SESSION FOUR: How was Jesus tempted? *Luke 4 v 1-13*

Full Route

1. Because the devil would love to get God's own Son to listen to the devil and reject living God's way. He would love to get Jesus to do something which stops God being pleased with him, and which stops him being able to offer people the Holy Spirit.

2. God probably allowed Jesus to be tempted so that Jesus could show the devil, and us, that he was always going to live as God's Son, and so live God's way in God's world. We sometimes give in to temptation; but as Jesus resists the devil, we're seeing that he was a perfect man.

3. Because he hasn't eaten anything for forty days (v 2), and the devil is tempting him to make some miraculous bread (v 3).

4. He knows that the Bible says it is even more important to live God's way than to have food to eat.

5. He's being tempted to ask for and enjoy great worldly power and authority, by worshipping the devil (v 7).

6. Again, Jesus quotes what the Bible says. His priority is to worship and serve his Father, not to get power for himself.

7. The devil quotes the Bible to Jesus (v 10-11)! And he's giving Jesus a chance to prove who he really is, the "Son of God" (v 9).

8. Because Jesus would be forcing his Father to send angels to save him. He would essentially be saying: "God, I'm not sure you really care about me, so I'm setting you a test to see if you do".

9. Jesus was often tempted—and this period in the desert wasn't the only time the devil tempted him.

10. As humans, we all face temptation, just as Jesus did. We're tempted in very similar ways as Jesus was: to think that our physical well-being matters more than our spiritual health; to stop worshipping God in order to gain more power or popularity in this world; to not really trust God to look after us unless he passes some kind of "test" we set. And, though the devil doesn't appear in person to most people (it's often much more effective for him to convince people he doesn't actually exist), he does to some people as he did here to Jesus.

The difference is not so much in the devil tempting Jesus, but Jesus' response to it. Despite being under enormous pressure, on his own, and hungry, he would not give

in to the devil. He kept living as God tells humanity to in the Bible. We give into temptation every day, one way or another: Jesus never did.