

LESSONS FROM THE DESERT

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Alan Dionson

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Introduction:

1. Forty days in the scriptures
2. Forty days in the desert

A. THE FIRST TEMPTATION (Luke 4:1-3)

1. Satan's attack: cravings
2. Jesus' answer: scriptures

B. THE SECOND TEMPTATION (Luke 4:4-8)

1. Satan's attack: control
2. Jesus' answer: surrender

C. THE THIRD TEMPTATION (Luke 4:9-13)

1. Satan's attack: crowd
2. Jesus' answer: security

Conclusion

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

1. What have you learned something new during these "shelter-in-place" status due to COVID-19?
2. In the Bible, the number 40 is very prominent in many epic stages in the life of God's people. They are mentioned in the following:

In the Old Testament, when God destroyed the earth with water, He caused it to rain for 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:12). After Moses killed the Egyptian, he fled to Midian, where he spent 40 years in the desert tending flocks (Acts 7:30). Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights (Exodus 24:18) after which, he received the covenant. Again we find Moses interceding on Israel's behalf for 40 days and 40 nights in (Deuteronomy 9:18, 25). The Law specified a maximum number of lashes a man could receive for a crime, setting the limit at 40 (Deuteronomy 25:3). The Israelite spies took 40 days to spy out Canaan (Numbers 13:25). The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). Before Samson's deliverance, Israel served the Philistines for 40 years (Judges 13:1). Goliath taunted Saul's army for 40 days before being slung and slayed by David (1 Samuel 17:16). When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he traveled for 40 days and 40 nights to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).

Reading from these passages, what is the common theme in the number of 40?

3. Read Luke 4:1-3. What was the nature of the first temptation and how did Jesus refute the devil? In what way the Scriptures have sustained you in a fresh way during this time?
4. Read Luke 4:4-8. What was the nature of the second temptation and how did Jesus respond to the devil? How did this pandemic change some of your plans, goals, aspirations and directions? How can you practice the principle of surrendering to God's will during this time?
5. Read Luke 4:9-13. What was the nature of the last temptation and how did Jesus confront the devil? Why did the devil use "if you are the Son of God" instead of "since you are the Son of God"? Where is Jesus identity based from? How can we secure our identity as well?
6. How did these forty days change you to become a stronger and deeper Christian?