

Luke 4

ASVh with Comments

Summary. This chapter emphasizes that the Lord Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit and always goes to synagogues on the Sabbath day. **Luke 4:1-13.** The Lord Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The Lord gives us an example of how to fight temptations by standing firm on the Word of God, and we must hand our temptations to the Lord for help because only the beloved Son of God has already won against all the temptations that the devil has tempted Him. **Luke 4:14-16, 31-32, 41-44.** The Lord Jesus' fame has spread to all regions around. As His custom was, the Lord Jesus entered the synagogues on the Sabbath day and taught the people, healed the sick, and delivered those oppressed by demons. **Luke 4:16-30.** The Lord Jesus goes to the synagogue in Nazareth, His hometown, and reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He tells those in the synagogue that the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2 refers to Him by saying, "today has this Scripture been fulfilled in your ears." **Luke 4:31-37.** As the Lord Jesus traveled around to teach the people, He and the disciples went together to a synagogue in Capernaum, a city in Galilee. In this place, the Lord has shown His authority above the dark side by healing a man with an unclean spirit. **Luke 4:38-40.** Here in this place, the Lord Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law and many other people who had various diseases.

¹ And **Jesus**, full of the **Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan, and was led **by** the **Spirit** in the wilderness,

Comments 4:1. For verses 1-13, see Comments Matthew 4:1-11 and Comments Mark 1:12-13.

Q: What does the Bible want to show us through the temptation of the Lord Jesus? **A:** The Bible tells us that the beloved Son of God in human form has taken all kinds of temptations that humans will face during life on this earth. He has taken it all upon Himself so men and women will not have to face temptations alone. God Himself wholly knows how humans feel. The temptation that the dark side has given us to face, we can give it to the Lord because in Him He already has faced that temptation; the Lord has taken all upon Himself. But there are some temptations that we dare the dark side to do, and the Lord will not take away those temptations. For example, you feel that you are capable enough, so you go to the liquor store and buy alcohol to consume, and you believe in yourself that you will drink only this amount and stop, but the weakness in you will make you go back and get more, that is the dare you made, and the Lord will not help. And not just about alcohol, but sexual things as well. The Bible tells us not to do many things, but because of our own fault, we do it, knowing well that the Lord says no, do not do it, and that is the same way as dare.

For verse 1, see Comments Matthew 4:1. This verse tells us that the temptation of the Lord Jesus happened after His baptism in water in the Jordan River. This temptation of the Lord Himself has told all humans that when the physical body is weak, the devil can tempt you easily, but the beloved Son of God Himself in human form has shown all humans how to strengthen our own spirit itself and fight back that weakness of body and be able to face all the challenges of the mind.

² forty days being tempted **by** the devil. And **He** ate nothing in those days, and when they were accomplished, **He** was hungry.

Comments 4:2. This verse does not tell us specifically that the Lord Jesus did not drink water. It only specifies that the Lord did not eat anything during these days and afterward hungered. It is assumed this was only a fast on food (See Comments Matthew 4:2).

Q: What is the difference between the Lord Jesus' fast here and Moses' fast in Exodus 34:28?

A: These two fasts, between the Lord and Moses, have different purposes. The Lord's fast is according to the meeting with the Father and follows a specific command. The food itself makes the body work, but when the beloved Son of God fasted, His body needed only water, but no food, since food has taste. The food fast has a different purpose for fasting, with no food taken, only water. But Moses fasted for a different purpose, a different type of fast, to receive the written Ten Commandments. Also, we are not given all the details about the fasting of the Lord Jesus at that time. In the Bible, when it talks about someone fasting, we can notice that each has a different purpose, and neither of them has all the details given.

³ And the devil said **to Him**, if **Thou** are the **Son of God**, command this stone that it become bread.

Comments 4:3. This temptation is the temptation of the satisfaction of the flesh (see Comments Matthew 4:3).

Q: What is the difference between saying “this stone” in Luke versus “these stones” in Matthew? **A:** There is no difference. These words are only the way the translations have put them down, but the meaning is the same.

⁴ And **Jesus** answered **to him**, It is written, Man shall not live **on** bread alone. **But by every word of God.**

Comments 4:4. Cited from Deuteronomy 8:3 (see Comments Matthew 4:4).

Note: “But by every word of God.” This portion of the verse is part of the original Gospel of Luke.

⁵ And the devil led **Him** up into a high mountain and showed **Him** all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Comments 4:5. See Comments Matthew 4:9.

Note: “And the devil led Him up into a high mountain.” This portion of the verse is part of the original Gospel of Luke.

⁶ And the devil said **to Him**, **To Thee** will I give all this authority, and the glory of **it**; for it **has** been delivered **to me**; and to **whom** I will I give it.

⁷ If **Thou** therefore **will** worship before me, **will** all be **Thine**.

Comments 4:5-7. This temptation is the temptation of an easy life and laziness (see Comments Matthew 4:9).

“Showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.” By showing to the Lord of Life and claiming they have authority over all the kingdoms of the world, it is a dare from the devil to ask, “If Thou therefore will worship before me, will all be Thine.” The devil does have authority, but only over those humans who reject the Lord of Life. And on the earth itself, the devil can cause problems and suffering because, from the beginning, the Lord has given them a certain authority. The devil can break things on earth in the sense of destruction, but they cannot make anything disappear; only God can.

⁸ And **Jesus** answered and said **to him**, It is written, **You shall** worship the **Lord** your **God**, and **Him** only **shall** you serve.

Comments 4:8. Cited from Deuteronomy 6:13 and 1 Samuel 7:3 (see Comments Matthew 4:10). This place clearly shows all humans how merciful the Lord of life is. Even to the devil’s challenge, the Lord Jesus has given them the way to be saved, and we can see they have rejected His mercy. They should serve only God Almighty, not themselves.

The Lord Jesus has told the devil here the true way of salvation. The way of salvation also applies to all the fallen angels that fall by trickery; those angels still have a chance to be saved the same way as the children of humans. These angels relate to those angels before the creation of the world. At that time, the heavenly was occupied with many levels of rulers, and these rulers had a duty to give work to the angels. However, some rulers have betrayed the God Almighty, lifted themselves to be equal to the Creator, and tricked many angels into falling with them. When the Father threw them out of heaven, He also gave them a chance to repent, the same way as the children of man; all still have a chance to be saved.

⁹ And he led **Him** to Jerusalem, and set **Him** on the pinnacle of the temple, and said **to Him**, If **Thou** are the **Son of God**, cast **Thyself** down from **here**;

¹⁰ for it is written,

He will give **His** angels charge concerning **Thee**, to guard **Thee**,

¹¹ and,

On their hands they **will** bear **Thee**,

Lest **perhaps** dash **Thy** foot against a stone.

Comments 4:9-11. Cited from Psalm 91:11-12 (see Comments Matthew 4:6). This is the temptation of proving that you are somebody important. You can notice the importance of not even letting your feet be touched by a stone, which means lifting up, which is higher than all, and that is the temptation of being high above all and important.

¹² And **Jesus** answering said to him, It is said, **You shall** not make trial of the **Lord your God**.

Comments 4:12. Cited from Deuteronomy 6:16 and Isaiah 7:12 (see Comments Matthew 4:7). Also, verses 9 to 11 show that the devil wants the beloved Son of God to show His power as well. That is one of the reasons why the Lord has said, “you shall not make trial of the Lord your God.”

¹³ And **having accomplished** every temptation, **the devil** departed from **Him** until an opportune time.

Comments 4:13. After the devil had tempted the Lord, they left Him, but they went in wait to take time and tempt Him again. This verse also tells all humans that when they have been tempted, it will never be once only; always, the same temptation will come and tempt them again until they have given that temptation to the Lord for help because only the beloved Son of God has already won against all the temptations that the devil has tempted Him.

¹⁴ And **Jesus** returned in the power of the **Spirit** into Galilee; and a fame went out concerning **Him** through all the region **around**.

Comments 4:14. When the beloved Son of God returned from being tempted, the Holy Spirit from within Him shined through, and all humans could notice. Speaking through the Holy Spirit, the Son has made known to all humans that He is One with the Father. This verse is a confirmation that the Holy Spirit also worked through Him. Imagine it this way: the Father and the Son, when facing together, in between them, the Holy Spirit links both ways, from the Father through the Holy Spirit to the Son, and also from the Son, through the Holy Spirit going back to the Father. Also, we can imagine the Trinity as a triangle with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all connected together as Three in One.

¹⁵ And **He** taught in their synagogues, being glorified **by** all.

Comments 4:15. “And He taught in their synagogues.” Here, the gospel clearly says that the beloved Son of God has been set apart even by humans themselves. By being a teacher in their synagogues, He is already set above them all.

“Being glorified by all.” Because the Living Word has worked in their hearts, all the people who heard the beloved Son of God’s teaching have come to the same conclusion: glorify the beloved Son of God. Keep in mind that, at this point, it is just the beginning of the beloved Son of God’s ministry on earth.

¹⁶ And **He** came to Nazareth, where **He** had been brought up; and **He** entered, as **His** custom was, into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Comments 4:16. This event described in this gospel from verses 16 to 30 is similar to the one in Matthew 13:53-58 and Mark 6:1-6 but not the same; not the same time, place, and people.

“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up.” This verse clearly states that the Lord Jesus came back to His hometown—the hometown where He grew up, and some people there knew Him as well.

“And He entered, as His custom was, into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.” We plainly see the way of life of the beloved Son of God; as His custom was, the beloved Son of God always went to the synagogue.

“And stood up to read.” Also, we can certainly see what the Lord was doing. He did read the Word of the Lord.

¹⁷ And there was **given to Him** the **scroll** of the prophet Isaiah. And **He** **unrolled** the **scroll**, and found the place where it was written,

Comments 4:17. In this place, all humans have seen the work of the Father Himself. Humans forget to think that the roll of the scroll was not small; just opening the roll and finding the right spot was the guiding work of the Father Himself.

¹⁸ The **Spirit of the Lord**, upon **Me**,

Because **He** anointed **Me** to preach good **news** to the poor.

He has sent **Me** to heal the broken in heart,

- To proclaim **pardon** to the captives,
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are **oppressed**,
19 To proclaim the **favorable** year of the **Lord**.

Comments 4:18-19. Cited from Isaiah 61:1-2.

“The Spirit of the Lord, upon Me.” The saying of the prophet Isaiah refers to proclaiming that the beloved Son of God has the same Holy Spirit as the Father, which is confirmed here by saying, “the Spirit of the Lord, upon Me.”

“Because He anointed Me to preach good news to the poor.” The Father Himself does not look to the earthly possessions of humans, which is why the beloved Son of God came here on earth and gave the good news to the poor.

“He has sent Me to heal the broken in heart.” This portion of the verse, including “to heal the broken in heart,” is part of the original Gospel of Luke. The “broken in heart” in this place is not the physical heart that is broken but the spiritual heart that drifted away from the Lord’s teaching. The beloved Son of God Himself becomes the bridge for those who drift away to have the path to walk back to the Father.

“To proclaim pardon to the captives.” Here, first, think about what the Lord wants to tell you. What is it to be captivated? Not the earthly body, but the soul itself that has turned away from the Lord after receiving Him as the Savior and has been captivated by the sinful nature of humans. This saying refers to the time after the Holy Spirit has been given to humans and does not refer only to His own people; all humans are His people as well.

“And recovering of sight to the blind.” The “recovering of sight” becomes a different thing in this place; the eye that used to look at the abominable things, that what is blind here, and the Lord comes to help them see the truth.

“To set at liberty them that are oppressed.” All humans that come to accept the Lord, not only accept alone but stay firm under His protection, those the Lord will set free from being oppressed by human sinful nature.

“To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” The beloved Son of God has come to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord since His birth, death, and resurrection. From that point on, it becomes the favorable year of the Lord for all humans to come to be with the Lord.

- 20 And **He** rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were **fixed upon Him**.

- 21 And **He** began to say to them, **Today** this Scripture is fulfilled in your **hearing**.

Comments 4:21. This verse confirms that the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2 refers to the Lord Jesus Himself. Whoever hears the saying in verses 18 to 19, the Lord Himself has put in their hearts to think about this saying, and it is all their fault if they ignore the saying and reject the beloved Son of God as their Savior.

- 22 And all **bore Him** witness, and **marveled** at the words of grace which proceeded out of **His** mouth; and they said, Is not this Joseph’s **Son**?

Comments 4:22. “And all bore Him witness ... His mouth.” This verse confirms the wisdom of the beloved Son of God in human form. The Word that He spoke out is alive, and all that heard the Word of life could feel it.

“And they said, Is not this Joseph’s son?” The words that He has spoken made the hearts of people think, He cannot be the Son of this person, a common man cannot have this wisdom, and all people that heard His words were amazed by His words.

- 23 And **He** said to them, **Certainly you** will say to **Me** this parable, Physician, heal **Yourself**! Whatsoever we have heard done at Capernaum, do also here in **Your hometown**.

Comments 4:23. “Certainly ... heal yourself.” In this place, because people know Him as the Son of Joseph, and with the wisdom that He has shown to all, it makes them wonder, and all that hear the words from Him want Him to explain about Himself to them.

“Whatsoever ... hometown.” The people have heard about what He has done in another place, and they want Him to prove Himself by doing the same miracle things here as well.

²⁴ Then **He** said, Truly **I** say to you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.

Comments 4:24. The Lord has already sowed the seed in their hearts, and it is their duty to grow that seed. Because they have been wondering about His words, those are the words they needed to grow, the words He spoke to them. In this verse, the Lord has told all who are listening to Him that no prophet has been accepted in his hometown as they will not accept Him in His hometown as well. The Lord has told them ahead.

²⁵ But of a truth **I** say to you, There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there **was** a great famine over all the land;

Comments 4:25. The widow’s story with Elijah and the heaven being shut up is found in 1 Kings 17:1-16. In 1 Kings 18:1, we are told that “after many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, ...” which can be interpreted as after the third year of Elijah staying with the widow. The length of time it did not rain on the land by the prayer of Elijah is also given in James 5:17 as three and a half years.

²⁶ and to none of them was Elijah sent, but only to Zarephath, of Sidon, to a widow woman.

Comments 4:25-26. Here, it refers only to the selection the Lord has already made. The Lord chooses to have mercy on whom He pleases. Because the Lord knows that not all of them will believe in Him, but only the ones that the Father has chosen will believe, and the Father knows their hearts from the beginning. As in this verse, the Lord knows the heart of this person, and because of her heart, the Lord has sent Elijah to call her.

“Of Sidon.” Regardless of where the land is on this earth, all the lands belong to the Lord; the Lord created them all.

“To a widow woman.” The Bible talks about widows in many places, showing the Lord’s mercy toward them. A woman who has no husband to protect and help is in the Lord’s heart to help.

²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.

Comments 4:27. The story of Naaman the Syrian is found in 2 Kings 5:1-14. As this verse says plainly, the Lord has mercy on whosoever He pleases. And here is another example: Naaman the Syrian was the one whom the Lord chose to have mercy.

Q: What is the Biblical link between these two stories and verse 24?

A: The Lord told this story to his own birth town because of the hearts of the people. People knew the Lord’s childhood and family. Everyone makes mistakes in the eyes of people judging by their own thoughts. But the Lord wants to let them know that God does not look at the outside appearance; the inner heart of the person is more important than the outside appearance. The place of birth and appearance have made an impact on human thought, but the beloved Son of God in human form does not judge people according to what the physical eyes see; He judges them by their inner hearts. Humans will disagree with what the Lord is teaching, but this example will also stir their hearts; do not judge with your own thoughts, but let the Lord be the one who judges.

²⁸ And they were all filled with wrath in the synagogue, as they heard these things;

Comments 4:28. They mainly believe the Lord has compared them with the people He used as an example. As they were in the synagogue of God, they were filled with wrath. They felt against the Lord’s mercy towards those they believed were unworthy of being helped.

²⁹ and they rose up, and cast **Him** out of the city, and led **Him** to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, in order to throw **Him** over.

Comments 4:29. When they thought someone else did not do so according to their own judgment, even though the Lord was now sitting as a teacher, they had no respect for Him and fought against Him. They were against the Lord’s teaching forcefully enough to the point of killing Him.

³⁰ But **He** passing through the midst of them went away.

Comments 4:30. This verse clearly tells that time and all living things froze, not by command, but just only by the will of the Lord; all things stopped. There could also be a different way of saying that time froze or stopped. But here, only human time stopped, but the beloved Son of God's time did not stop; His time is above human time. That is why the verse says, "He passing through the midst of them went away." They did not lay hands on Him; the Lord walked through the midst of them all.

See Joshua 10:12-14 for a similar event.

³¹ And **He** came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And **He** was teaching them on the **Sabbaths**;

Comments 4:31. For verses 31-37, see Comments Mark 1:21-28.

In the Gospel of Mark, we are told that this account takes place after the Lord Jesus called His disciples, indicating that the Lord Jesus and the disciples went together to Capernaum (See Mark 1:21, "and they go into Capernaum"). In the beginning, when the Lord has called the disciples, He will always go with them, and here, in this verse, the Lord already has the disciples with Him.

³² and they were astonished at **His** teaching; for **His** word was with authority.

Comments 4:32. See Comments Mark 1:21-22 and Comments Matthew 7:28-29.

This verse indeed says that the word of the Son of God "was with authority." When His word goes out, it is alive and has power, and all the people who hear His word can notice this.

³³ And in the synagogue there was a man, **having** a spirit of an unclean demon; and he cried out with a loud voice,

³⁴ **Ha!** what have **Thee** to do with us, **Jesus** of Nazareth? **Are Thou** come to destroy us? I know **Thee** who **Thou** are, the **Holy One of God**.

Comments 4:33-34. Here, it clearly says that the dark side itself knows the Lord very well and fears Him. The dark side's knowledge of the Lord is clear about whom the Lord is, and all should notice in this place that the dark has told us that the Lord Jesus is the Holy One of God. Even the enemy of the light knows the Lord.

³⁵ And **Jesus** rebuked him, saying, **Be silent**, and come out **from** him. And the demon **having** thrown him in the midst came out **from** him, having done him no hurt.

Comments 4:35. See Comments Mark 1:23-27.

Give attention to the answer the Lord has given; the beloved Son of God used simple words to order the dark side, and they obeyed.

³⁶ And amazement came upon all, and they **spoke to one another**, saying, What this word **that** with authority and power **He commands** the unclean spirits, and they come out?

Comments 4:36. The Lord has shown His authority over the dark side in this place. All people in that place have clearly seen the power of the Lord Himself; by His order, the dark obeyed. All who were there were amazed at His power, but it did not stick with them long.

³⁷ And there went **out the report** concerning **Him** into every place of the **surrounding** region.

Comments 4:37. The Lord wants people to talk about His authority. All who have witnessed this power will spread the report that God has come down and knows what humans are facing in order to fight against the dark side. And all will realize they cannot fight the dark side alone by themselves.

³⁸ And **He** rose up from the synagogue and entered into the house of Simon. And Simon's wife's mother was **held** with a great fever; and they **begged Him** for her.

Comments 4:38. For verses 38-41, see Comments Matthew 8:14-16 and Comments Mark 1:29-34.

³⁹ And **He** stood over her and rebuked the fever; and it left her; and immediately she rose up and **served** to them.

Comments 4:39. The complete message about this case comes from all three gospels. In Luke, it says, "and He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and the fever left her"; in Matthew, it says, "and He touched her hand and the fever left her"; in Mark, it says, "and having come near, He raised her up, having laid hold of her hand, and the fever left her." The entire message has been given in this case. The Lord stood over her, touched her hand, rebuked the fever, and, at the same time, raised her up, and the fever left her suddenly.

⁴⁰ And when the sun was setting, all that had any sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

Comments 4:40. See Comments Matthew 8:17 and Comments Mark 1:34.

“And He laid His hands on every one of them.” In this verse, we will emphasize the part “every one of them.” The Bible did not mention specific names of diseases, but at that time, various diseases and sicknesses were affecting people much more than now. The number of people that the Lord of Life has touched at that time is large, but the beloved Son of God has healed them all, and it is because of His love towards humans.

⁴¹ And demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, Thou art the Son of God. And rebuking, He did not permit them to speak, because they knew that He is the Christ.

Comments 4:41. See Comments Luke 4:33-34, Comments Matthew 8:17 and Comments Mark 1:34.

In this verse, give notice that “He did not permit them to speak, because they knew that He is the Christ.” The dark side has declared the truth about the beloved Son of God, but He Himself wants all humans to know Him with their own eyes and ears because He was physically dwelling among them at this time. Human eyes and hearts should be open to notice and realize that the beloved Son of God was there among them. The Lord did not want witnesses from the dark side since the witnesses from them would create confusion. Because the dark side is the father of lies.

⁴² And when it was day, having gone out, He went into a solitary place, and the multitudes sought after Him, and came to Him, and were detaining Him not to go from them.

⁴³ But He said to them, I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; because for this I have been sent.

⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Comments 4:42-44. For verses 42-44, see Comments Mark 1:35-39.

These events are the same in both gospels, but the Lord wants to emphasize different areas in each gospel. The Gospel of Luke does not mention anything about His disciples, but most of the time, all of His disciples will be beside Him when traveling.

In this portion of the Scripture, the Lord has told all about His duty; His duty is not in one place but in all places.

Life and Faith Applications. 1) We need to give our temptations to the Lord for help because only the beloved Son of God has the power and authority to help us, and He has won the fight for us already. 2) When the Bible tells us not to do something, we should apply that command to ourselves and ask the Lord to help us withstand the attacks, and the Lord will help us. 3) Pray to the Lord before you make any fast decision in your life and ask for directions regarding what fast you should give to the Lord. 4) Glorify the beloved Son of God always in your life. 5) The people in need are in the heart of the Lord for help, so we as Christians should act and help those in need without passing judgment.