



Week 3 Discussion Questions

Week of 9/11/22

Text: Luke 4:1-13 or 4:14-30 (depending on which campus you attend)

Icebreaker: What was the highlight of your summer and what are you most looking forward to this fall?

Questions for Verses 1-13

1. Last week, we saw the glorious anointing of Jesus's baptism in 3:21-22. Does it surprise you that this wilderness experience would directly follow (after the genealogy is listed)? Why?

Application: Is there something here that can be true to our own experience of what it's like to follow Jesus? Explain.

2. Verse 1 tells us that Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" and "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." Why is the Holy Spirit's role important for the events that unfold in this passage?

Application: What difference does having the Holy Spirit within us and leading us make in our lives today?

3. If you're familiar with the first books of the Bible (esp. Genesis-Deuteronomy), do you notice anything in these first few verses of chapter 4 that reminds you of things that happened many centuries before in the Old Testament? What do you think?

What's different about how those Old Testament accounts played out versus what happens here in chapter 4?

4. The devil plays a prominent role in these verses as he presents three temptations to Jesus. What tactic does the devil use and how does Jesus respond each time he is tempted?

Application: What could we learn here about how the devil operates and how we should respond?

Questions for Verses 14-30

1. Until now in Luke, a lot has been said *about* Jesus by others, but now we begin to hear directly *from* Jesus (through Isaiah!) regarding his purpose or mission. What do you notice about what Jesus says in verses 18-21 that is consistent with "good news"?

Application: We see that Jesus's ministry is directed toward the "poor," the "captives," the "blind," and the "oppressed." What do you think it looks like for us to engage in this kind of ministry today?

2. Verses 22-23 reveal the initial "hometown" reaction to Jesus. How would you summarize it?¹

Application: What has your experience been around your "hometown" family and friends? Do you find it easy to express your faith to them or is it a challenge? Why?

3. Jesus illustrates his claim in verse 24 that "no prophet is acceptable in his hometown" through two Old Testament accounts.² What is it about these two accounts that Jesus is highlighting?

Application: What does this tell us about the danger of unbelief in our own lives?

4. Is it really "good news for all people"? Why does the crowd react with wrath in verses 28-29 to what Jesus has said?

Application: As we think about verses 14-30 and the title of this series, what do we mean...and what do we *not* mean...that the gospel is "good news *for all people*"?

Week 3 Final Thought:

Note how Jesus uses Scripture to counter the devil's temptations (verses 1-13), to define his ministry (verses 14-30), and to illustrate the consequences of unbelief (verses 14-30). We should be encouraged by these reminders of the power of God's Word to protect us from evil and lead us ahead as we walk in step with Jesus. This is why the Bible is the centerpiece of all our LifeGroup discussions at Calvary.

¹ For clarity's sake, the expression in verse 23, "Physician, heal yourself," is best understood as a cynical or skeptical charge against someone who claims to be greater than they are. One commentator, John Nolland, equates it with "Who do you think you are to offer to us what you do not have for yourself?" (Word Biblical Commentary). We can only imagine the shock as Jesus verbalizes their own doubtful thoughts back to them!

² See 1 Kings 17-18 for the first and 2 Kings 5 for the second.