



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus Tested

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Additionally in the first three chapters, Luke sets a firm foundation that precludes the ministry of Christ through documentation and carefully shares key secular, cultural, and spiritual events that provide historical, prophetic, and faith perspective. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. From credible witnesses including: Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, John the Baptist and the Ultimate Witness, God the Father. God the Father declaring from Heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." (3:22). Luke, in chapter four, describes a testing of Jesus and a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil.

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry." (Luke 4:1-2 NASB)

Jesus was prepared. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit. (4:1) Jesus understood the task that was before Him and was prepared for the battle. Luke shares that while the test was physically challenging for Jesus, the battle was spiritual and He was full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus relied on His Spiritual strength. (Eph 6:10-20). Jesus was prepared for His adversary, the devil.

Jesus was persistent and single focused. Jesus was led around or influenced by the Spirit in the wilderness. Jesus was tempted (*tempted- Gk pronounced 'peirazo' ; to tempt or to test*) by the devil. God did not allow the temptation of Jesus in an effort to prove Jesus' ability, character or faithfulness, since He had already acknowledged and approved His Son (3:22). Jesus could not fall into temptation or fail, yet was tempted or tested in all things (Heb 4:15). Jesus could and can relate to the temptations and testing of His people and in turn they could relate to Him through these tests. Jesus was and is the Messiah and the One who conquered temptation and sin. Jesus was so single focused that He ate nothing for forty days.

Jesus was in pain. "When they had ended, He became hungry." (4:2) Jesus was physically tested for forty days and nights and during that time Jesus did not eat. Jesus was provided spiritual nourishment for this battle through the Holy Spirit. Jesus did feel physical pain through the tests and extreme nature of the wilderness environment experience. Jesus did not fail the physical or spiritual tests. Jesus' followers have a High Priest that knows all the physical and spiritual pain that they will or could experience.

For Your Consideration:

- Many times God 'test' His people to prepare them for ministry, His use. Have you been tested?
- Where do you find your strength to battle temptations? The Holy Spirit?
- Are you prepared for your next test?

Additional Suggested Reading:

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Deuteronomy 5 – 11; Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 4

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44