



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Gen. 3; 5:1-2, 6-9, 21-24, 28-32; 11:24; 22:2, 12, 16; Ex. 4:22; 16:1-3; 17:1-7; 32:1-15; 34:28; Nu. 11:1-6; 14:34; 20:1-13; 32:13; Due. 2:7; 6:4, 13, 16; 8:2-3; 29:5; Ru. 4:18-22; 2 Sam. 5:4, 14; 1 Kings 19:8; 1 Ch. 3:5; 2:10-12; Neh. 9:21; Pss. 2:7; 91:11-12; 106; Isa. 11:1-3; 42:1-4; 61:1; Ezek. 1:1; Joel 2:28-32; Amos 2:10; Matt. 1:1-17; 3:13-4:11; 14:23; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:3; 4:14, 18; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28, 35; 11:1; 22:3; John 1:32-34; 12:31; 14:30-31; Acts 2:17-21; 7:56; 10:11, 37-38; 17:28; Rom. 8:15-17; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 1:13; 1 John 5:19; Heb. 4:14-16; Rev. 19:11

Study Summary

In this passage Jesus begins His ministry with two important events, His baptism and the temptation in the wilderness. Through these events we are given a picture of who the Messiah is: the unique Son of God empowered by the Spirit, who remains faithful to God where all others failed. His unique identity as God's Son come through the lineage of David is emphasized, but Luke makes clear that Israel's Savior will also be the Savior of the world. He has come to rewrite the history of Israel and the history of all humanity as the One faithful Servant of the Lord.

Historical & Theological Background

Theological: This passage gives insight into the humanity and divinity of Jesus. The Incarnation is a theological term used to describe how "the Son of God assumed a human form in Jesus." God took on human form to reveal Himself to His creation, but also so that He might "be united with humanity and so bear their sins, die and make atonement for them in one act of sacrifice and reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19-21)." What we "could not do" ourselves God did through His unique Son who, in the Incarnation, became both fully God and fully human, ultimately revealing His love for us by "bearing the consequences of sin (Rom. 5:8)." In addition, through "the union of the divine with the human Jesus became the author and head of a new humanity in which those who believe in Him are united with Him, share in His divine sonship, become co-heirs with Him of glory, and participate in the divine nature." By coming down among us to save us through the death of His Son, God has brought us up to union with Him in Jesus' resurrection and ascension. In this text we see Jesus identify with sinful humanity in His baptism and showcase His vicarious victory in His defeat of the devils schemes. He is both the One True Human and the Eternal Son of God.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

This week's passage connects to so many other texts throughout the Bible. Take some time this week to prepare for your discussion by looking up the supplemental texts and considering how they connect to the passage in Luke. If you are short on time at least consider those supplemental texts that are mentions in the Guide questions below. Come to group prepared to share your insights.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 3:21-4:13

Big Idea: Jesus, The Unique Son of God, Is Faithful Where All Others Fail
Fallen Condition Focus: Faithlessness and Failure

- Who descends upon Jesus and what is spoken over Him (v.22)? What Messianic prophecies does this event point to? (See Pss. 2:7 and Isa. 42:1-4)
- Why does Luke trace Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam and finally to God (v.38)?
- Who leads Jesus into the wilderness (v.1)? What happens while He's in the wilderness (v.2)?
- Note each of the devil's temptations. What is he trying to get Jesus to do?
- How does Jesus respond to each temptation (v.4, 8, 12)? What passages of Scripture does Jesus quote and why? (See Due. 8:3; 6:13, 16)
- How are the temptations of Jesus similar and different to the temptations of Adam and Eve and the testing of Israel during the wilderness wanderings? (See Gen. 3:1-7; Due 8:2; Ex. 16:2-3; 32:1-4; Ex. 17:1-7)

Gospel Connection: Jesus is the new and better Israel (His victory in the wilderness temptations) and the new and better Adam. Read Rom. 5:15-21. In what ways is Jesus the new and better Adam? How has His obedience become our own?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- Consider the words of God to His unique Son Jesus (v. 3:22) and read Rom. 8:15-17. How often do you consider God's love for you as one of His children? Do you believe God is pleased with you? Why or why not?
- God does not tempt us (Ja. 1:13), but He does allow us to be tempted. Why? (See Ja. 1:12 and Due. 8:2)
- What temptations have you faced recently and how have you dealt with them?
- Considering how Jesus responded to temptation, what is one of our greatest weapons against temptations in our own lives? As followers of Christ what resources do we have in facing temptations? (See 4:1 and Jesus' answers to the devils challenges)
- Despite our own failures, what comfort can we find in knowing that Jesus faced the same temptations as we have? (See Heb. 4:14-16)
- Do you find it difficult to trust in God and rest His faithfulness? Why or why not?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 3:21-4:13* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |