



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Jesus in the Wilderness!

**Lesson Text:** Luke 4; 7:18-23

**Focus Verses:** Luke 4:17-19 - <sup>17</sup>And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, <sup>19</sup>To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**Truth About Covenant:** Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant.

**Covenant Context:** Now that God had come in flesh, Jesus faced every temptation we would face to show us it is possible to win against the devil and against our own human nature. Yet, people in His hometown did not believe He was who He said He was, so they rejected Him. Jesus set up His ministry outside of Nazareth, where He worked miracles signaling His rightful claim as the Savior.

Jesus overcame every temptation we face and showed it is possible to win in the wilderness. The wilderness was an appropriate arena for a cosmic battle between Heaven's Son and Earth's enemy. God in human flesh was alone in the desert and hungry when Satan approached Him. With a quick slip and a counterpunch, Jesus rebuffed Satan's attempt to draw Him into shortcutting and self-reliance. The bell rang—round one to Jesus (Luke 4:4). Round two began as Satan placed the world and its kingdoms before Jesus with a promise He could have it all if He worshiped Satan. The bell rang again—round two to Jesus (Luke 4:8). The final round of the bout began, and Satan came out swinging with an appeal to Christ's special status (Luke 4:9, 12). Satan was down for the count. Jesus stood victorious over every temptation we face: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. **Most importantly, Jesus stood victorious over Satan himself.**

Jesus' method for winning in the wilderness instructs us well. He responded by quoting Scripture, which was more than just reciting God's Word. He was fully depending on and obedient to the Word of God. God promised that faithfulness to and humility before Him would cause life to flourish. Why? Because the words of the Lord are good and because the God of covenant—the giver of Scripture—would uphold those who trust in Him by keeping His word.

Jesus claimed [Isaiah 61](#) for Himself in the synagogue. Jesus began to read: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*" (Luke 4:18; compare to Isaiah 61:1). He surprised everyone in the room. He began: "*This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*" (Luke 4:21). Jesus was claiming to be the very messenger who would herald the restoration of the people of God. As exciting as that would have sounded to ancient Israelites, their response to Jesus revealed doubt and unbelief toward Him: "*Is not this Joseph's son?*" (Luke 4:22). However, Jesus was glorified in Galilee, but not in Nazareth (Mark 6:4-5). Although Jesus healed the sick and lame and raised the dead outside of Nazareth, the blind did not see, the lame did not leap, and the dead did not rise in Nazareth. In an ironic turn, the people who knew Jesus the most actually knew Him the least.

Our unbelief surfaces often and even unexpectedly. When God uses people we are not fond of, when our plans do not work out, or when God seems to answer everyone else's prayers but ours, we see our own unbelief. Like the assembly at Nazareth, our problem is not with the idea that God is working in the world, but rather with the ways in which He does. Our problem is we are not the center.

John went to prison for telling the truth for calling Herod to repentance, specifically for his immoral marriage to Herodias. John sat in prison for faithfully obeying God's will. He questioned Jesus' Messianic identity (Matthew 11:2-11). In Jesus Christ the reign of God had arrived. John's own willingness to resist bitterness and focus on his role in seeing God's covenant fulfilled gives us an example to follow. We are called to surrender our lives to God in order for His promises to be fulfilled in our world. We may not know how our story ends, but we are called to be faithful as the Author of our faith writes and will one day finish our story.

We can conquer the dark woods of our day only because we share in the riches of Jesus Christ's victory and the bounty of His graciously-given wisdom. Let us, like Luke, follow in our Father's steps. Jesus won in the wilderness; so can we.