

**A Declaration of Those Things Which Are
Most Surely Believed Among Us
An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**
Chapter 4- Luke 4:3-13
39- The Temptation of Jesus Christ- Part 2**

July 26, 2009

Luke 4:3-13

We are continuing our examination of the Temptation of Jesus this morning, and I want to go back and rehearse some points that we saw from last week.

For three entire Chapters now- Doctor Luke has been giving Theophilus and us several reasons to trust in Jesus alone for Salvation. And so for three chapters- Luke has made sure that we have heard the testimony of angels, men, and God, about Who Jesus is, and Luke gave us a very detailed genealogy that traces Jesus all the way back to Adam, and finally to God.

So here in the 4th Chapter- Luke now begins to describe for us the beginnings of the Ministry of Jesus Christ by recalling Jesus' 40 day fast and torment in the wilderness as He confronts Satan head on.

Now as I told you last week- it's fine to have all of these testimonies and all of these proofs and all of these credentials in place. But the ultimate question is- can this Man- Jesus Christ- save sinners from sin? Can He save sinners from the destroyer? Can He deliver our eternal souls from death and hell? That's the *real* question- and the only question that has eternal ramifications. Can Jesus overturn the Curse? Can He acquire Paradise for us? Can Jesus not only walk this world in white Himself- but can He pardon my guilt and purchase eternal life for me- even though I have *not* walked this world in white? Can this man undo what the destroyer did with the first Adam? Can Jesus conquer Satan? Can He conquer sin and therefore conquer death and therefore conquer hell not only for Himself- but for all who trust in Him?

And if He can't even do this for *Himself*- then it's for sure that He can't do it for anybody else. And so the compelling question that is

answered in this fourth chapter of **Luke** that the good doctor wants Theophilus to know is the question- can Jesus conquer the devil and sin? And thank God- we can answer a resounding, "Yes!" to that question.

Now a huge issue that has arisen out of this moment is "*Could Jesus have actually sinned and fallen? Could Jesus have succumbed to the temptations of satan her as actually sinned an forfeited His Mission to earth?*"

Now most people in the modern Church answer that question, "*Yes, Jesus could have sinned, He was fully capable of sinning, and just like us- He was well able to fall into sin and ruin God's Plan for Salvation*".

And I spent some time last week to try to prove to you how that is not true; that people believe that based on real bad teaching and real sloppy exegesis, and this is caused by an almost universal collapse of Biblical Truth about things like The Deity of Jesus Christ and The Sovereignty of God and the Radical Ruination of Man, and, therefore, the modern Church- for the most part- has a very *low* view of God, a very *low* view of Scripture, and a very *high* view of Man- which is just the opposite of what we *should* have.

First of all- the Church of Jesus should have a very *high* view of God. And the result of the Church having a very high view of God is that the Church will have these Characteristics:

1. The Church will regain the knowledge that God is Holy, Righteous, All Knowing, All Powerful, Ever Present, Effectual, Merciful, Good, and Just.
2. The Church will regain the knowledge that God is One in Essence while being eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
3. The Church will regain the knowledge that God is passionate about displaying His Own Glory throughout the Universe
4. The Church will regain the knowledge that God is infinitely Worthy of being known, feared, loved, obeyed, and worshipped
5. There will be a fervent and consistent effort to evangelize all of Mankind without fear or fail.
6. There will be a clear understanding of the sinfulness of Sin

7. A "culture of repentance" will be developed and maintained in the Church that promotes self-examination in light of Scripture and a turning away from ungodly thoughts, deeds, and beliefs
8. Decisions by the people of the Church will be made for the Glory of God, to be done according to the Will of God, rather than for personal gain or personal satisfaction
9. God's Word becomes the Authority in the Church

And we need to know that the failure of the Church to have and maintain an exalted view of God in the Church *always* leads to:

- ✓ A toleration of and a corresponding increase of Sin in the individual lives and in the Church as a whole
- ✓ An indifference toward Divine Truth
- ✓ The value of the Gospel, Personal Holiness, Grace, Law, Sin, and Righteousness is diminished or is non-existent
- ✓ Unproductive or counterproductive teachings and man-made programs which focus on glorifying Man rather than glorifying God abound
- ✓ No burden for the lost
- ✓ An increase in the search for personal and temporary benefits and comforts at the expense of the Glory of God
- ✓ A replacement of Objective, Propositional, and Eternal Truth with entertainment and fables

So the Church that has a low view of God reflects a "man-centered" ministry that attempts to please and satisfy people rather than obeying and glorify God.

The second thing that the Church must have if it is to understand the Person of Jesus fully and correctly is a very high view of Scripture. And anytime a Church has a high view of Scripture- there will be these Characteristics:

1. The Church will believe and teach that all 66 Books of the Holy Bible are the Inspired, Inerrant, Infallible, Authoritative, Relevant, and Eternal Word of the living God, and that all of Scripture is God breathed- and is the true, full, and final

Revelation of God to Man, and is unique and separate from any other writing on the face of the earth.

2. The Church will believe and teach that the Word of God is the Verbum Deum- the Word of God, and the Vox Deum- the Voice of God in the earth today.
3. The Church will actively promote and engage in serious, deep, consistent, line upon line, and precept upon precept studies of the Scriptures.
4. The Church will provide answers to troubling questions about the Bible and teach the people how to put all the pieces together.
5. The Church will adhere to the Doctrine of Sola Scriptura which says that all Church Doctrine, all Reproof and Correction, and all Instruction in Righteousness will come from Scripture and from Scripture alone. In other words- Church Doctrine, Reproof and Correction, and Righteous Instruction does not originate from Prophecies or Tongues and Interpretations, Dreams, Visions, or Angelic Visitations, Personal Revelations, Church History, Church Councils, or Pronouncements by Pastors, so-called Apostles or Prophets, Elders, Bishops, Cardinals, or Popes.
6. Individual decisions by those in the Church will be based on what Scripture teaches rather than what the world teaches.

We must know that a failure to recognize the full Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authority, Sufficiency, and Relevancy of God's Word *always* leads to:

- ✓ A Pursuit of comfort and entertainment rather than obedience and edification.
- ✓ A people who love themselves and pleasure more than they love God.
- ✓ Personal experiences, direct revelations, supernatural manifestations, and angelic visitations will supersede the Authority and Sufficiency of God's Word.
- ✓ Contemporary thinking, Psychology, Philosophy, and pragmatic methods override the Principles of Divine Truth.
- ✓ The Church produces people who pursue their own selfish desires based upon a worldly and an ungodly standard.

- ✓ A neglect or rejection of time tested Traditions that have proven to be both valuable and edifying to the believer.
- ✓ Sin becomes attractive and respectable, and, therefore, less fought and less overcome.
- ✓ Man-made doctrines replace The Apostle's Doctrine.

And finally- when the Church has a very low view of Man- we begin to understand what the Apostle James meant when he said in **James 1:14** that:

... each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

So the Bible says that we humans are tempted when we are "**carried away and enticed by his own lust**". So temptation is the drawing away of us- away from the Truth, away from righteousness, away from holiness away from the Bible, away from Prayer, away from purity, away from Joy, and away from bringing Glory and Honor to God, and stealing that Glory and Honor from God and giving them to things that are passing away.

But notice that James says that these lusts are our own. The Apostle James teaches here that the lusts which satan draws us away with- *belong* to us already- they live *inside* of us; they reside in our hearts and dwell *within* us. They are our *own* lusts. And they are ours by virtue of the fact that we are born with Original Sin and so all that satan has to do to cause us to sin is to give us an *opportunity* to act out on the lusts that we already have inside of us.

You see, satan cannot *make* or *force* anybody to sin dear friends- we sin because we *want* to, because we *desire* to sin, because we *choose* to sin, and we *choose* to sin because Jesus said in **John 3:19** that we love darkness rather than light. And we love darkness rather than light because we are fallen creatures who have lost our first estate that Adam had before he fell.

So sinning to a fallen person is not *abnormal* at all- no, no, no- sinning is as natural and normal to a fallen person as breathing, and that is why nobody can ever be saved unless and until God Sovereignly *intervenes* on our behalf, overriding our natural inclination to run and hide from God, and superseding our own normal inclination to try to sew figs leaves together to make ourselves righteous by what we do.

Because in order to be saved- we have to think and believe and act counterintuitive to our fallen nature, and we have to love what we do not normally or naturally love- and we *cannot* do that and we *will not* do that unless we are supernaturally empowered to do that by the Holy Spirit.

So satan tempts *us* by simply providing us with an avenue to do what we want to do anyway in our normal and natural fallen inclination- which is to sin. So that is the way that temptation and sin works in us.

But Jesus had no Original Sin in Him because Jesus was not born with the seed of Adam- Jesus was born with the Seed of God. You see, Jesus' Father was God- not Joseph- and so the seed of Adam that comes to every human through the seed of their father- bypassed Jesus.

The result of this is that Jesus had no internal lusts for which satan could give opportunity to draw Him away. So for 40 days- satan is unsuccessful in getting Jesus to sin because as Jesus Himself said in **John 14:30:**

He has nothing in Me.

There was absolutely *nothing* inside of Jesus, in His Heart or in His Nature, that satan could entice. There was *nothing* in Jesus' Nature as the God/Man which the devil could hook an enticement on which would allow Jesus to act out internal sinful lusts. Jesus had no capacity to internalize a temptation. All temptation that came at Jesus always came from the *outside*- no temptation ever came to Jesus from the *inside* because Jesus had no sinful nature, and, thus, He had no lusts lurking inside His Nature because His Nature was not fallen.

There was absolutely no internal solicitation for evil in Jesus. There was nothing in Him that could respond to any temptation by sinning. So every single response that Jesus had toward to temptation was immediate and it was pure and it as perfectly righteous. Every response to temptation was precise. And you never ever read about any kind of internal struggle going on inside Jesus as if Jesus was trying to fight off some natural tendency that He had for iniquity. He did not.

So while it is absolutely true that Jesus was tempted- we must understand that as the most unique Person Who ever lived- being both

fully God and fully Man- Jesus was *not* tempted in the same way that you and I are tempted.

Jesus was not tempted because He was drawn away of some lust that He had inherent inside His fallen heart because Jesus did not *have* a fallen heart and neither did He have internal lusts. But Jesus was tempted so that He could confront satan head on and destroy the power that satan had over us in our sin and make a way for us to be redeemed out of our sin.

Now this whole issue of Jesus' temptation centers around the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. And the struggle to understand this falls along these lines:

- A. Was Jesus able to be tempted in the same sense as we are and able also to actually sin?
- B. Was Jesus *not* able to be tempted in the same sense as we are and able to live without sin?

This is what theologians call the "peccability" and the "impeccability" of Jesus Christ. This words "peccability" and "impeccability" come from the Latin word *peccator*, which means: *to be able or unable to sin*.

And the best answer that there is- is that as a human being Jesus was fully capable of being tempted and of sinning, but as God- Jesus was *incapable* of sinning and also *incapable* of even being tempted. And so in this case- in His battle here with satan- Jesus' Deity superimposed itself on Jesus' Humanity, and Jesus was not able to be tempted or sin- at least not in the same sense as you and I are tempted and sin. And that is because Jesus had no internal lusts on which satan could capitalize.

So Jesus' peccability as a Man was overshadowed by His impeccability as God. Now that may not satisfy some of you but that is my best shot, and so if you want to deal with this subject deeper and more fully- I invite you to meditate on this subject during the week and see if you can word it better than that. In the meantime- I am satisfied that Jesus' Deity would not allow Jesus' Humanity to be tempted or to sin in the same way and in the same sense as we are tempted.

Luke 4:3&4

3 And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 And Jesus answered him, “**It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’**”

So Jesus answers satan with the first temptation with the statement:

It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.

And we need to take notice that Jesus didn't sit there and ponder this; he didn't struggle with this. Jesus was not wavering about whether or not to succumb to this temptation, and His answer was pure and forceful and sure and confident and true and immediate. There was absolutely no hesitation as there would be with us when we are tempted as our internal lusts struggle against doing what satan gives us opportunity to do.

Jesus simply answered, "It is written!" And I love this. Every single time satan tried to come at Jesus- Jesus responded with the Word of God- "it is written!"

Jesus quotes the Scriptures. Jesus uses the Sword of the Spirit- which is the Word of God, and He very matter of factly said,

It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.

Now here Jesus is quoting from **Deuteronomy 8:3**. And **Deuteronomy** is the *second* Law- that is where the name comes from, "Deutero" meaning: *second or twice or two* and "onomy"- which comes from the Hebrews root meaning: *Law*. So Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law of God; it is the second time that God put forth His Law to the Jews. It is rehashing of what is in the first four Books of the Bible.

So let's look at **Deuteronomy 8**- and see what God says here.

Deuteronomy 8:1-2

1 “All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers.

2 You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

So here God says, "Okay, I've given you all these commandments, I've reiterated My law, now I'm giving them to you and I'm telling you that you need to be careful to do these things, to obey them, and if you do you will live and multiply and you'll go in to possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers." Now look at verse 3:

Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

So here God says to them- "The key to life, the key to a future, the key to the land is not bread, and not military power- but obedience. If you obey My law- I'll make sure you have everything you need. I'll make sure you're fed. I'll make sure your land...I'll get you to the land, and I'll give you the kingdom.

"And remember all the way which the Lord your God led you in the wilderness for 40 years that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."

So in this passage- God says the people of Israel were tested in the wilderness for 40 years whether they would obey God, and they failed the test, right? Well, in an interesting parallel, Jesus was tested in the wilderness not 40 years but 40 days- only He passed the test.

So you see, what actually happened in the wilderness in those 40 years was that they began to distrust God's Love- and that distrust of God's Love allowed them to complain and murmur and bellyache and then to rebel and sin.

So what is the result of them doubting God's Love? They murmured, and they murmured because God hadn't given them the

kind of food they wanted. They hankered after the leeks and the garlic and the stuff they had had back in Egypt.

It wasn't enough that God gave them manna every morning, it wasn't enough that God gave them water out of a rock, it wasn't enough that they had a pillar of fire at night and a cloud in the daytime leading them, it wasn't enough that God had first judged and then utterly destroyed the mightiest nation on earth at that time, it wasn't enough that God has just delivered them out of 400 years of slavery. None of that mattered because they doubted God's Love. You see when you doubt God's Love- nothing will satisfy you. When you doubt God's Love- God can do wonders right before you and it is never enough.

So be careful brothers and sisters and guard your hearts that you do not murmur and that you do not complain and that you do not bellyache about what God has already done for you, and you begin to despise the blessings and the kindness of God because your heart has doubted God's Love.

And the issue with the Jews in the wilderness is the very same issue with Jesus here in the wilderness- food. Later on Jesus would tell his Disciples in **Matthew 6:31-33**:

31 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

"Don't take any thought for what you're going to eat, or what you're going to drink, but do what? "Seek first His kingdom". So it isn't about food, it isn't about drink, it isn't about raiment, it isn't about fancy cars and new homes and great jobs and financial prosperity or even good health. What is it about? Obedience. It is all about you and me being faithful and humble and obedient.

So what does Moses say to them back in **Deuteronomy 8:3**? The very same thing that Jesus said to the people in **Matthew 6** in The Sermon on the Mount; the very same thing that Jesus said to the devil in **Luke 4:4**- He says, "*You have to understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth*

of God." If you want to live the abundant life- you obey My Word- and God will take care of everything else!"

And that's what God says to us today. We must understand that we do not live because we eat- but we live because God has determined to give us life and to provide us with food. And as soon as God determines that you're not going to live anymore- you're not going to live anymore- no matter how much you exercise or what you eat. God determined that you were born and when you were born, and God determines that you shall die and when you shall die and how you shall die. So we don't live because we eat- we eat because God has determined us to live.

Lots of people who have lots of food, die. That's what Jesus is saying here. Life is not a matter of what you eat or what you drink or what you wear. Life is not about how much money you have or how many possessions you own or what kind of car you drive or how many powerful people you know or what kind of clothes you wear. People who need to drive around in a fancy car to feel good about themselves are very weak and unstable people. What we should take comfort in is not *anything* that is passing away- but that we do the Will of God and obey Him. Jesus said in **Luke 12:15**:

... Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.

God said in **Isaiah 43:21** that He created us for His Glory, and so life is nothing more than a matter of us fulfilling the Purposes of God- not doing what is right in our own eyes. So if God wants me to live- then He has promised to feed me. And I am to trust Him for that. And if God desires for some reason for me to go to Heaven with Him- then He will stop feeding me - and I'll die. And I need to trust that God is good when He does that, too.

So Jesus transcends this shallow, flippant, temporary personal thing about meeting all our needs. That is so wrong. And it is so wrong because we really are in no position to know what we really need. Only God knows what we really need and He has promised to meet those needs- according to the good pleasure of His Will. But I notice that when people concentrate of their own needs- that those needs get bigger and bigger all the time.

You might *want* that new car- but you probably don't *need* it. You may *want* all that great furniture and that new TV and that new house and that new sailboat and that new wife- but you probably don't need it, and so please don't go around and lust after more of this world's goods and covet after what other people have then try to sanctify it by saying that you can have it because God promised to meet all your needs.

Here satan is coming to Jesus and saying, *"Yeah, I know about obeying the Word of God, and I know about being faithful- but You're hungry, Jesus. You haven't eaten in 40 days. So why wait on God? Why depend on God, why trust God, why be content with what God has already provided for you- when you can just take the bull by the horns and turn these rocks into bread?"*

You're hungry, so why don't you just do something and satisfy Your own personal needs?" And that kind of approach is devilish, dear friends- not divine. And it is devilish when people do that in our day.

Ministry is not about approaching people on the basis of their "felt needs". No, true Biblical Ministry is about approaching people on the basis of obeying God. Obeying God and being faithful and believing the Gospel are not options- they are commands.

And we expect Jesus to answer the way He answers, He says, *"I don't live because of bread- I live because God has determined My life. I'm not concerned about what I have to sacrifice- I am only concerned about the Will of my Father being carried out. I will exalt the Word and I will exalt the Will of God, and I will do exactly what the Father tells Me to do. I will obey His Word because that's what life is all about."*

Now that was Jesus- but I suggest to you that we should have that same mind and attitude in us that Jesus had. We live because God gives us life, and God will give us true life- if we obey Him and live to do His Will.

In the New Testament, the Scriptures talk about people whose life is shortened because of disobedience. John speaks about a "Sin unto death," things like that. I mean, the broad principle of life is that we live because God allows us to live. Man does not live by bread alone.

For 40 years- Israel had manna. They had bread, bread, bread, bread, bread. They had all the bread they could eat. And what happened to them? Every unbeliever dies. Every single Jew who had been glorious delivered out of 400 years of slavery died in the wilderness unless they believed.

They had plenty of bread- but no life. We do not live because of bread, and that's why Jesus quotes this from Deuteronomy- because it fits the scene so well- it parallels the people of Israel wandering for 40 years and Jesus for 40 days. They ate bread and they failed the test- and they died. But Jesus passes the test of trust in God- even though He has no bread- and He lives.

So here is Israel- who was in the wilderness saying, "Oh, we don't like this bread, we're not happy with this bread," and they were constantly disobeying God and making idols and worshiping idols and complaining and murmuring and sinning every which way and they all died in the wilderness.

Bread couldn't keep them alive- even the Bread from heaven couldn't keep them alive. Even God sending down quail they could just pick out of the air and eat didn't keep them alive- because sin brought their life to an end.

Now contrast what Israel did back then in their 40 year wandering in the wilderness to what Jesus does here in his 40 day trial. They bellyached and complained and said, *"Give us flesh to eat! Where is God when we need Him?"* while Jesus says Here Jesus says, *"I'll trust God, I'll obey God; I'll obey God in every way, and I'll trust God to do for Me what He needs to do- even if that means I don't eat. All I'm concerned about is seeking the Kingdom and promoting the Glory of God."*

Now what is interesting is that after all of this as over- Matthew records that the angels came and ministered to Jesus- which could very well mean that they brought Him food. So God did provide for Jesus.

So what Jesus is doing here- is affirming His absolute confidence in God. He's affirming what Paul says in **Philippians 4:19**:

... my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Jesus knows and trusts that God will meet every need. He has no question about that; He has no doubt about that. So, therefore- Jesus is fully committed to obey God and in the terms of **Deuteronomy 28**- He will obey God and enjoy the blessings that comes from that obedience.

Please turn with me and read **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**:

- 1** Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.
- 2** All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:
- 3** “Blessed *shall you be* in the city, and blessed *shall you be* in the country.
- 4** “Blessed *shall be* the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.
- 5** “Blessed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl.
- 6** “Blessed *shall you be* when you come in, and blessed *shall you be* when you go out.
- 7** “The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.
- 8** The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
- 9** The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.
- 10** So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you.
- 11** The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.
- 12** The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.
- 13** The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe *them* carefully,
- 14** and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Now what is fascinating is that although we have 14 powerful verses here that talk about all the blessings that we get if we obey- there are through 54 verses that talk about the judgment and

damnation that will come to us if we do *not* obey. And keep in mind, dear friends, this obedience cannot be haphazard or part way. No, the only obedience that counts is perfect obedience and continuous obedience. And that perfect and continuous obedience to every single part of the Law of God must be in thought, word, and deed.

So in other words- we must be perfectly and continuously obedient to all the Law of God in thought, word and deed 24 hours every day and 7 days every week, or else not only do we *not* get the blessings that the first 15 verses promise- but we are then in line to receive all the judgment and damnation that the other 54 verses of this Chapter promises.

And that means that every human on the face of the earth besides Jesus is not in line at all for any of the blessings of verses 1-15- but we all - by virtue of our continual disobedience- are only in line for the curses found in verse 16-68. That is the problem with the Law of God. The Law itself is holy, just, and good. But what is wrong with the Law is that nobody can obey it perfectly and continuously. So, all that we are at the end of the day are transgressors of the Law. Nobody obeys the law perfectly and continuously- and, therefore, nobody is righteous. And because we are not righteous through our obedience to the Law- we cannot earn Heaven by anything that we do.

But here- weak and emaciated after fasting 40 days- Jesus stands tall and glorious as being perfectly and continuously obedient to all the Law of God. Jesus never sins and he never distrusts God for one second- even though He Himself has not yet seen the results of that Trust.

In His full and complete trust of God- Jesus says, *"I'm not going to distrust God because I know God and I love God, and I know that God loves me."* And he does not say this *after* He is fed- but while He is starving to death.

So in effect what Jesus is telling satan here is, *"You are presuming that a man needs bread to live- but I'll tell you what you need to live- you need to be obedient to God, and then you will live the full life that God grants to His obedient children. It's not the bread that keeps you alive, it's the creative energizing sustaining Power of God that keeps you alive. "If He wants Me to live", Jesus is saying, "Then He'll give Me bread. I believe God. I trust God. But whether I live or die- I will not take your bait and distrust God."*

Now there is an important passage about this kind of Trust that we need to understand that is found in **Daniel 3**:

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which *was* sixty cubits *and* its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent *word* to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and *men of every* language,

5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

6 But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”

7 Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language fell down *and* worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8 For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

9 They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever!

10 You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image.

11 But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, *namely* Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

15 Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, *very well*. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

17 If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 But *even* if *He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

20 He commanded certain valiant warriors who *were* in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast *them* into the furnace of blazing fire.

21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their *other* clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.

22 For this reason, because the king’s command *was* urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire *still* tied up.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.”

25 He said, “Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!”

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you

servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.

27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around *and* saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire *even* come upon them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”

30 Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

Let's come and pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.