

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:9-13** 42- The Temptation of Jesus Christ- Part 5

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Luke 4:9-13

Now this is the fifth message about Jesus' Temptation and I want to recap what we have learned about this moment thus far. In **Luke 4:1**- doctor Luke wants us to understand that this time of temptation of our Lord was not like many of the temptations that we face with the devil. Luke tells us that it was God's Will and the Spirit of God's leading that drove Jesus into the wilderness to face His torment and suffering, and that it was the devil's will that Jesus take matters into His Own Hands and relieve Himself of His sufferings.

And we saw just how different Jesus' temptation was from ours as we looked at **James 1:14** that says that when we mortals are tempted- it is because satan has given us an opportunity to act out on certain *internal* lusts that we already have within us. Satan does not and cannot *make* us sin- but satan gives us an opportunity to do what it is that we secretly lust after anyway. That is why we sin.

And those *internal* lusts came to us through our fathers as the seed of our father united with the egg of our mother- and Original Sin was passed on to us in our mother's womb. But, as we discovered- Jesus did not have any internal lusts to act out on because Jesus' Father was not Joseph- but Jesus' Father was God and God has no Sin in Himself, and so Jesus was born without Original Sin.

And Jesus is the only One Who was born without Original Sin in his flesh. All other human beings born of woman including Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born with Original Sin and is, in fact, a sinner and in need of Grace and Mercy for Salvation.

So this time of temptation for Jesus was different and unique from that kind of temptation that we go through.

And we saw that the first temptation was for Jesus to distrust God's Provision. Satan came to Jesus to try to get Jesus to deliver Himself out of the suffering and hunger that God had willed for Jesus to be in and that which the Spirit of God had led Jesus into.

And as we found out last time- Isaiah's prophecy in **Isaiah 53** tells us clearly that it was God's Will for Jesus to suffer and be rejected and to be killed. That was the Will of God. It pleased the Father to bruise Jesus. And so that is what the Spirit of God led or drove Jesus into- because the Spirit of God never leads anyone to do or to say *anything* that is contrary to God's Will. Therefore- any attempt by anyone- including Jesus Himself- to avoid or deter or avoid this suffering, or to relieve Himself of this suffering was contrary to the Will of God and contrary to the Spirit's leading.

And because Jesus loved His Father fully, and because Jesus had fully submitted Himself to the leading of the Holy Spirit- it meant more to Jesus to be obedient to His Father and to please His Father and to be fully led by God the Holy Ghost than it did whether He ate or not. It meant more to Jesus that He was faithful to His Father and in full obedience to the Spirit's leading than it did that He lived or died.

Being happy and free and full and healthy and delivered from pain and set free from suffering and prosperous was *not* what was on Jesus' Mind- but to be obedient and faithful- *that* was what was on Jesus' Mind. Escaping pain and suffering and hardship and persecution and even dying- avoiding *those* things and being delivered from *those* things were *not* priorities for Jesus- and those things are not what should be our priorities either.

No, what concerned Jesus most was that His Father's Will was carried out completely and faithfully. What concerned Jesus the most was whether or not He was in full submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit. What was on Jesus' Mind was not how He was *Personally* benefitting from what God wanted done- but whether or not God was being Glorified.

And we found out that that is the true definition of Love, and that is the true definition of devotion, and that is the true definition of obedience and service.

So by tempting Jesus to *ignore* His Father's Will and to tempt Jesus to cause stones to be made bread was an attempt by the devil to get Jesus to pick up His full Divinity that He had willingly laid aside

and to act independently of God the Father and God the Holy Ghost- thus breaking the unity of the Trinity. So the first temptation was to get Jesus to distrust God's Provision.

The second temptation was to get Jesus to distrust God's Plan. Please look again at **Luke 4:5-7:**

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Now in Matthew's account of this found in **Matthew 4:8&9-** it talks about this moment a little differently and says:

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Now we don't exactly know just how this happened. We know that both Jesus and Satan were supernatural beings. Jesus, of course, occasionally acted in very supernatural ways- like when He walked on water- even before His Resurrection. Jesus also demonstrated His supernatural Character on the Mount of Transfiguration when He pulled back the flesh and revealed the Glory of God shining through Him.

So this may have been some way in which they were both transported supernaturally or it may have been that they went to the highest mountain and had a sort of *simulated* view of the kingdoms of the world. We just don't have enough information that tells us exactly how this was done. But *how* they did this is not what is important- they did it. Now notice again what the devil said in **Luke 4:6:**

6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Boy, did satan have delusions of grandeur or what? Satan had a small opportunity to rule as the king of this world for a very brief time and look how it went to his head! But even though satan was granted that kind of authority for this brief period of time- the only thing he rules over now is evil.

It is God Who is Sovereign- not the devil and according to **The Acts 17**- it is God Who determines the boundaries of the nations, and it is God Who causes nations to rise and fall. The devil, however, tries to deceive Christ here into believing that he has control of everything.

And the point that satan is making here is that, *"Yea, I realize that God's got this great grand Plan- but, Jesus- You know what this Plan is, don't You? The Plan that God has is that Your humiliation gets worse, Your going to continue to suffer, and You are going to continue to be rejected, and then You are going to die. That's what God's Plan for You is."*

I mean, at this time- satan knows the Old Testament, right. He knows what the prophets have said about Jesus. He knows that the Messiah is going to come down here and not be comely and not have any beauty about Himself and not be One to Whom we would seek after and satan knows that it is God's Will- as recorded by the Old Testament prophets- that Jesus be scorned and rejected and maligned and persecuted and beaten and finally that He would die a very painful and humiliating and scornful death.

Now we have to try to grasp the fact that at that time- satan knew the Old Testament backward and forward. He knew it by heart. He had memorized it in its entirety. And in addition to that- even though not one single Old Testament writer or priest or scholar or theologian completely understood the full impact and the full interpretation of the writings of the 39 Books of the Old Testament- satan absolutely did.

The devil already knew full well right at this moment with Jesus that the Messiah was going to be a superior Sacrifice for sin. He completely understood the OT sacrificial system, and he knew where all the lambs that had been slain for hundreds of years were all pointing to.

And here the devil is saying to the Son, *"You don't like being out here in the wilderness 40 days, do You, Jesus? You don't like being out here deprived and You don't like being out here without any food. Well just wait till You see what is yet to come for You. Just wait until You*

get a taste of Your Father's Plan that is yet to come. How do You feel about all the future suffering that You're going to have to endure? How do You feel about all the things that are yet to come that You haven't even experienced that are prophesied in the Old Testament?"

You know, Jesus- You are fully God, and You could miss the Cross- if You really wanted to. You can change all this and get out of this torment and suffering and rejection and the future excruciating death that is waiting for You- if You really wanted to.

Listen to me. Couldn't God be more glorified with You having all the kingdoms of the world under Your feet rather than You out here hurting like this? I mean how in the world are You going to bring God Glory by hanging on a Cross? Why does God want to hurt You so bad all the time? What kind of Plan is that? Why doesn't God want You to enjoy life like other people do and miss all that further humiliation? I mean all You need to do is bow down and worship me, and You can have all the Glory of all these kingdoms. Don't you think You deserve that? Why wouldn't God want that for You?

*Why would You want to fulfill **Psalms 22** and cry out in agony, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' You know that is Your Father's Plan. Why would You want to have to go through all that when I will give You all the Glory of all these kingdoms that You so richly deserve?*

Look, I don't know why God wants to hurt You so bad- but I want to bless You. I want to prosper You, I want to make You the head and not the tail, I want to give You nice and pleasant things- not the hard, lonely, and bitter Plan that Your Father gives You.

You can bypass this whole thing, Jesus. All You have to do is recognize that I own all the kingdoms of the world and I will give them to You if You will just fall down and worship Me. And you can skip the Cross and go right to the Crown; You can skip all the hardship and go right to the Glory; you can skip past being faithful to this hard and mean Plan and go straight to being adored by the whole world and You can get out of all this hard straight and narrow stuff. All You have to do is make me Your sovereign".

That is what is going on here. And thank God- Jesus loved His Father so much that He would rather suffer and be faithful to God's Divine Plan than He would be set free from suffering and enjoy the pleasures of sin and the admiration of the whole world for a season.

Thank God it meant more to Jesus to be found obedient to the Plan that His Father had set for Him than anything else- including His Own freedom and life.

Now Satan was wrong about this for a number of reasons. First of all- Satan couldn't give Jesus all these kingdoms. And secondly, even if he did have that power- he would not have given anything to Jesus. Because what Satan wanted more than anything was to be above God Himself. And that's why he fell. He wanted to be worshiped by everyone- including God- including Christ.

And notice that Jesus' response was immediate. Notice that Jesus did not struggle at all with this, and notice that he didn't have to ponder the offer and then have to try to fight off some internal desire that really wanted this to happen. No, Jesus had no internal lusts at all on which this temptation could attach itself to. Jesus truly loved His Father with a pure and full Love that nobody else in all of human history has even had.

And Luke tells us in **Luke 4:8** that Jesus looked Satan square in the face and said

It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'

Now what Jesus is doing here is quoting from **Deuteronomy 6:13**- because Jesus knows the OT even better than Satan does because He is the One Who inspired it. And Jesus has absolutely no doubt at all about God's Plan for Him. To Jesus, God's Plan is wonderful for no other reason other than He loves and trusts His Father. To Jesus- God's Plan is good because it is God's Plan, and God is Good- regardless of how this Plan may affect Him personally.

So this is not difficult for Jesus at all. He's already sold on God's Plan. He was with God in the beginning when God created this Plan, and Jesus knows that all that matters is that God's Will and God's Plan is carried out. So Jesus speaks confidently and boldly- without any second thoughts and without any hesitation- *"I will worship God and God alone. I will trust My God's Love and Care. I will worship My God unwaveringly. I will take no shortcut to the fulfillment of His Plan. I would rather complete God's Plan and suffer and die than worship you and fail God"*

Now even though we are not confronted like this *specifically*- we are confronted like this *categorically*. Even though the details of our temptation will be far different from this temptation of Jesus- we will be tempted in the same way or by the same general category.

We, too, experience these kinds of temptations- to distrust God's Love and to doubt God's Will. We are tempted to say, *"God, if You really loved me then why is this working out this way in my life? This doesn't look like You love me, and I don't really like this Plan that You have set for me. This isn't the way I thought all this was going to work out. I didn't sign up for this. I think I might go another way here, Lord, because this is just not what I think I deserve."*

I mean, I know there's a crown out there somewhere but it seems like the Cross is more than I can bear, and I don't understand why You would want me to hurt when I could be happy and blessed. It just makes no sense to me, and, therefore, it must not be You. Can't I take a little shortcut here and skip the Cross and skip the agony and skip over the pain and skip over the rejection and skip over the suffering and go straight to the Crown?

I mean if this was Your Will why wouldn't more people agree with this? I mean here I am struggling on this hard straight and narrow path with all these rocks and holes and pitfalls and dangers, and all those other people are over there on a pretty broad road that is paved and clean and they are all enjoying life and they are full and fat and fed and blessed and happy and they have the admiration and the glory of all the kingdoms of the whole world."

So we do face the same categorical struggles, don't we? And it's not that we could be tempted *specifically* to do what Jesus was tempted to do here because we don't have that kind of power or authority. We're not entitled to rule the world, nor can we make stones into bread. But *categorically* we can and we are constantly tempted by Satan to distrust God's Love and to distrust God's Plan.

You know- things might not be working out so good in your life and your kids aren't what they ought to be and life, in general, isn't what it ought to be. And you've got all kinds of trouble- illness, trouble, job trouble, whatever it might be.

And, then out of our deep disappointment and disillusionment and distrust we say, *"Lord, I'm just wondering if You really care for me and really love me and, Lord, I really don't know if the Plan is really what I*

would like it to be." And so you murmur and gripe and complain just like the children of Israel did and say. *"God, do You really love us? If You loved us- why would you keep us out here for 40 years? 40 years in this desert sure doesn't look like love to us, and besides all of the trouble and all of the pain and anxiety and deprivation- this really doesn't seem to be the Plan that we had hoped for. Maybe it's better that we just call this whole thing off and that we go back into Egypt"*

But I want to remind all of us this morning that those Jews who murmured like that, those Jews who complained about God's Plan like that, those Jews who distrusted God's Provision like that did not go into the Promised Land- but they all died in the wilderness and they died in unbelief.

So be careful faithful Christian that you do not get weary of the journey. Guard your heart that you do not look at the world and crave its fame and fortune; take heed to your own soul that you do not look at those who walk the broad road that leads to destruction and say to yourself that they have it better than we do, that it is better out there than it is in here. That you had it better back in Egypt when you were a slave to sin than you do with Jesus.

But I encourage you this morning to look to Jesus and remember that it was for the great and eternal joy that lay before Him that gave Him the courage and the strength to faithfully carry out His Father's Plan and to faithfully trust His Father's Provision.

So that's how satan came to Jesus. And the idea was, as I said, to breach the Trinity and turn Jesus against the Spirit and against the Father, and to get Jesus to become weary of following and become weary of being submitted and to pick back up His full Deity that He had willingly laid down, and to take matters into His Own Hands and make things better for Himself.

But thank God- Jesus doesn't move one inch. And instead of complaining about how hard God's Plan is- Jesus simply brings Glory to His Father by quoting the Scriptures. *"You don't live because you have bread- you live because you obey God."* And *"There's only one Plan and that's God's Plan, and I'll worship God and God alone no matter how God's Plan affects me personally!"*

Now there is one final assault against Jesus in this passage and satan twists this one in a very clever way. Please read again **Luke 4:9** with me:

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here.

10 For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’

Now this is strange, isn't it? And keep in mind that as supernatural beings- both Jesus and satan could move out of the wilderness, and they moved out of the wilderness- apparently to the pinnacle of the Temple mount in Jerusalem.

Now according to what I have read- there is a point on the Temple mount in Jerusalem that is very high. And if you have any kind of fear of heights- you don't want to go near this corner. It's the southeast corner of the Temple Mount. Now as you may know- the Temple mount, is a massive, massive flat, patio area where today are two of the most important buildings in all of Islam- The Dome of the Rock and the Mosque of Omar.

And up at the north end of the Temple mount is where they believe the original Jewish Temple was, and it's surrounded by a wall that today is called The Wailing Wall, and it's up on what is really Mount Moriah- where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac. And so it's been flattened out and you ascend it on long stairs from the southern side. Now the gates and the stairs that are on that Temple mount are the very same ones that Jesus went in and out of the Temple during His lifetime. So it's a very remarkable place.

But on the southeast corner of the Temple mount- there is a corner that sinks down into a valley called- The Kedron valley- where the Kedron stream goes through and it is a straight drop of 450 feet to the ground.

Now the historian, Eusebius, tells us that the half brother of our Lord- the Apostle James- who wrote the Book that bears his name- was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem, and it is this same James who was the leader of the Jerusalem Council that did battle against the Judaizers- who rejected the Grace of God and tried to bring legalism- or Salvation by works- into the Church as recorded for us in **The Acts 15-**

well, this same James- was thrown to his death from that 450 foot high corner of the Temple Mount. The Jews became so angry at the preaching and teaching of James about the Grace of God found only in Jesus Christ that they threw James off that very high ledge to his death.

So after satan gets Jesus up there- he says, *"Look, You say You trust God, right? And You only want to obey His Word. And You trust His Love and You trust His care and You will only do what His Word says to do, right? Fine, okay, but talk is cheap- so why don't you put your money where your mouth is and let's go up to the Temple mount- and let's go up to that 450 foot high ledge- and why don't you just dive off of it to prove beyond any doubt that God is really going to protect You like He said He would."*

*See, Jesus I really don't think God is going to protect You like You do. I've been in Heaven too, you know, and I rebelled because I don't trust God like You do. So prove me wrong and don't worry about anything because **Psalms 91:11&12** says that God will send His angels to pick you up lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

And the point that satan is making here is that if satan cannot get Jesus to act independently of His Father's Will and to act independently of the Spirit's leading by doing contrary to what God has said- then maybe he can get Jesus to act independently of the Father's Will and the Spirit's leading by doing what God *has* said- but in an inappropriate way.

Now as you know- **Psalm 91** is what is called "a Messianic Psalm". And it pledges protection for the Messiah, and says that God Himself will command angels to protect the Messiah. So satan wants to tempt God by forcing God to rescue Jesus by seducing Jesus to jump of the ledge. And satan's reasoning is that by doing this- Jesus will give God an opportunity to have His Word proven.

Now remember, that although Jesus is fully God- He is also fully human, and He would never survive such a fall. In His Humanity- Jesus couldn't survive the Cross. Once He had lost His blood- He was dead- even though He was God.

So what Satan *really* wants to do here is to kill Christ. In fact, what he really wants to do is to get Jesus to commit suicide. But this effort is disguised in a foolish and sinful attempt at wanting Jesus to prove the validity of Scripture.

Satan is saying here, *"Oh, so You only want to do what the Scripture says. Well, it is written that God is supposed to protect You and now You can give an opportunity for God to fulfill His Word. Wouldn't that be wonderful? You can allow God to put His great Power on display, and at the same time You can prove You're the Son of God because as You go flying down, at some point the angels are going to come along and they're just going to gather You in their arms and You're going to come down to a soft landing, and then everybody will know You are the Son of God. And then God will have demonstrated that His Word is true. Wouldn't that be great, Jesus? And this would be spectacular, and this would give You the amazement of the whole world. And You won't have to go through any more humiliation because everybody would then believe that You are truly the Messiah."*

But that isn't what Jesus wanted. He didn't want popularity. He didn't come to earth to be popular. He didn't come to be accepted. Jesus came to earth to die. He came to be faithful to His Father's Will and He came to be fully submitted to the Spirit's leading, and as I showed you last week- it was manifestly the Father's Will and the Spirit's leading that Jesus be hated and rejected and scorned and beaten and killed.

And it was absolutely critical that Jesus be hated and rejected in order that He would be killed. And He was to die by the agonizingly painful and humiliating method of crucifixion, and no other way.

So look what Jesus said in response to this temptation in **Luke 4:12:**

... It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

So first there was the temptation to distrust God's Provision, and then there was an effort by Satan to get Jesus to distrust God's Plan, and now finally there is an effort by Satan to get Jesus to trust God's Word- but to trust it *presumptuously*- to twist the Scriptures and take them out of context and to literally back God into a corner to force God to do what he wanted God to do. That was the temptation here.

And I hear this very same temptation being preached and taught from the pulpit by many famous people in our day. They teach that if you scream loud enough, if you psyche yourself up enough, if you "lay claim" to the Promise enough, if you take a verse or passage of

Scripture out of context enough- then you can get God to do whatever you want Him to do- because after all- if you really want something and your saved- then that proves that it must be God's Will because surely a saved person would never want anything that is contrary to God's Will, right?

Dear friends, this carnal, fleshly tactic is nothing more than an effort to do exactly what satan wanted Jesus to do right here and tempt the Lord God of Heaven and Earth. It is nothing more than a fallen human technique that tries to twist God's Arm to get God to do what you want Him to do regardless of what His Will is. And this effort is wrong and this effort is evil and this effort is a reproach to the God Who created you and the Christ Who saved you.

Now we need to remember that satan knew that Jesus was fully human and that a fall like that would kill Him as a man. Remember, this is the one who told Eve, "**You'll not surely die,**" but she did. And so would Jesus. And this would destroy God's Plan because God had already inspired His prophets to write that the Messiah had to die by shedding His blood on the Cross- not by crashing down into the bottom of a ledge.

So satan wanted Jesus dead. And he wanted Jesus dead right then and there. But he wanted Jesus to die thinking He was showing faith in God's Word.

Listen, the devil quotes Scripture all the time and he usually quotes it fairly accurate. This time he quoted from the Septuagint- the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT. So from this we can see that the devil knows the Bible and he knows it very well. And, you know there are all kinds of -isms and -chisms and cults and false teachers out there who throw the Bible around all the time because the devil knows the Bible and he knows the Bible as well as you do, or even better.

But the main difference between a true man of God who is led by God's Spirit and a false teacher who is led by the spirit of satan is that a true man of God will quote the Bible in the effort to get you to see the Sovereignty and the Majesty of God; that you can see that God is high and that God is great and that God is worthy and that God is valuable and that God is a great God so that you will become small in your own eyes, and so that you will know that you are a great sinner, and so that you will know that you need a Savior so you will repent of your sins and be saved, and after you are saved- that you will remain faithful and

persevere to the end. A true man of God will faithfully preach that it is not always God's Will to deliver you, and it is not always God's Will to heal you, and it is not always God's Will to give you what you want- but that it is God's Will to work all of the things that we would call "bad" with all the things that we would call "good", and that God works them together for the greater good of the Glory of God and the fulfillment of God's Will on the earth and that through this- He will change you and mold you and shape you through the fires of suffering that God allows you to go through- so that after you burn, and after you hurt, and after you are stripped, and after you are rejected and cast out and brought low- you learn to love what God loves and you learn to value what God values and you are then able to be found faithful in your obedience to God's Will.

A false teacher, however- will quote the Bible to get you to think that *you* are god and that *you* are sovereign and majestic so that *you* will become arrogant and prideful about your *own* holiness so that you may stay lost.

So even though the devil quotes Scripture- Jesus doesn't move. You see, there is one thing Jesus will never do and that is that He will not presume on God. He will not act independently of His Father or the Holy Spirit. This is not God's Will and that is not God's Plan or Purpose. And Jesus will not become some kind of a flying hero here. He will not force God's Hand to do something presumptuous.

You see for anyone to act presumptuously is to try to force God to do something. It is to twist God's Arm, or to compel God to act on something. And to be presumptuous is the very opposite of humility and submission. It is impossible for anyone to be humble and be presumptuous at the same time. It is impossible to be submitted to God's Will and try to force God to act on something at the same time. It is impossible to be led by God's Spirit and compel God to move on something at the same time.

You see, dear friends, being humble is the conscious, on purpose action of forcefully rejecting presumptuousness. And being presumptuous is the action of rejecting humility and submission. So for example- if I am striving to do God's Will- then by default I will graciously submit to that Will and not try to change that Will or rebel against that Will or manipulate that Will or alter that Will. If I am striving to be led by God's Spirit, then I will graciously humble myself

to the leading of God's Spirit and not try to dictate to the Spirit what I want done or how I want it done or when.

If Jesus was anything, dear friends, Jesus was fully submitted to do His Father's Will. Jesus loved His Father more than anyone has ever or will ever love God, and Jesus never said or did anything except by authorization of His Father. And Jesus will do nothing here to vindicate Himself or to presume on God. He will follow God's Plan to the very end as the Spirit of God empowers Him to do so because He has set aside any independent use of His Divine Attributes. And so there is no internal solicitation for Him to violate that because there was nothing in Him that had the capacity to sin.

Now we also must know that categorically- satan will try to tempt you to distrust God's Provision for your life, and to distrust God's Plan and Will for your life, and then to he will tempt you to trust God presumptuously.

Now we have seen Jesus' preparation for the battle. And we saw the Pattern of the Battle. And now we need to look at the end of the battle. Look at **Luke 4:13** again:

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Now when the devil had finished this whole 40 days, and then in the time of Jesus weakness the devil had hit Him with these three major ways to try to destroy the unity of the Trinity, the Bible says that satan departed Jesus until an opportune time.

Now keep in mind that the devil is not omnipresent. He's not all over the world at the same time. The Bible says here that satan left Jesus, and he left in total defeat. But the Bible also says here that satan only left temporarily- he only departed until an opportune time.

Later on we will see that the devil came back and he went after Jesus hard and heavy. He came back later and he came back often. Listen to what the good doctor wrote in **Luke 22:28**,

You are those who have stood by me in my trials.

Now here is Jesus- talking to the disciples saying, "You are those who have stood by Me in My trials." You see, the whole time they were

together for those three years- it was a time of temptation. The devil came back again and again and again after Jesus unsuccessfully. One time satan came through Peter, remember that? In **Matthew 16:22** Peter said, *"Ah, You're not going to die, Lord, that's not going to happen."* And in verse 23- Jesus said to Peter,

Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.

... and this was just on more effort by satan to get Jesus to avoid the Cross- and that effort is going on constantly all throughout Jesus' life- precisely because that was God's Will. Remember, dear friends, satan will not fight anything unless it is God's Will.

And in **John 13:27**- the devil came back and entered into Judas and brought about the betrayal. I mean, Satan was coming after Jesus through many different circumstances. But Jesus crushed him here in the wilderness and crushed him at the cross and crushed him at the tomb. And in the end, of course, Jesus is going to destroy the entire world of sin.

In conclusion, just quickly, what do we learn from this? A few lessons, Satan's strategy. He will tempt us to distrust the love of God. He will tempt us to distrust the plan of God, and, thus, to compromise with sin to get what we think we need and deserve and want. And then he will tempt us to presume. If we're going to say no, I trust God, no, I want to follow God, then he'll get us to presume on God and act foolishly out of pride and self-will, presuming on God's grace we do things foolishly. That's his strategy.

His conditions, when does he come at us? Watch out for the high points in your life because just as soon as you've had your high point and you've heard from God, "This is My beloved Son," you're liable to get hit with the biggest temptation. Be alert when you're physically weak. Be alert when you're in evil surroundings. And watch for those who twist the Scripture to justify some act of presumption.

How do you defeat Satan? How did Jesus defeat him? Three times, what did He do? Quoted...what?...Scripture. Be committed to obey God's Word. First of all, you have to know God's Word and you have to obey God's Word. Know the Scripture. Not only know it in your head, know it in your heart, and be committed to live it. When Satan

challenges your loyalty to God and your confidence in God's love and your confidence in God's plan, and when Satan challenges your will to act in a proper manner toward God's promises, what's going to anchor you is your knowledge of the Word of God and your devotion to obey it.

The same thing, Jesus shows us here a pattern to follow in our own struggles. Trust God's love. Trust God's plan. Don't presume on His promises and His grace. And you do that by being anchored in His Word.

In **1Peter 2:21**, Christ suffered, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin. Isn't that great? And the reason He committed no sin was because He was anchored in obedience to God and refused to presume on His goodness.

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.