

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on March 6, 2022:**

**"Put to the Test
(Luke 4:1-13)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us from Luke that Jesus past the test of temptations not only for Himself but for us as well.]

Introduction:

- How many of us have felt “put to the test”?
- What ways have we been put to the test in our own lives?
- How many have felt put to the test about finances?
- Here are other ways:
 - School exams
 - Health
 - Lusts of the flesh
 - Relationships
 - Family deaths
 - Faith
 - Jobs

- Now, interestingly, we’re going to see that Jesus is going to show us that faith is actually a response in being put to the test.
- We can not only be put to the test with physical challenges but also with spiritual challenges.

- Now, recently we’ve been put to the challenge with COVID, with some of our members who have tested positive for COVID even after being vaccinated.
- We no longer have to wear masks here at the Y, but if you feel you want to be more cautious, then you can wear a mask.

- Now, being put to the test is a natural part of life.
- Now, here is the nugget about any test we face: is it the preparation that we do, right there at that moment, or is our preparation that we do before?
- And what we’re going to see today, in the passage of Jesus, that Jesus passed the test but it wasn’t just about being in the moment, it was earlier preparation.

- Now, our goal is to pass the test when we are put to the test.
- And, we’re going to see that in passing the test – that’s how we are transformed.
- So, being put to the test and then passing the test is a part of our transformation.
- And that transformation process is why we have been placed here to grow in and love the Father, Son and Spirit and then to share that love with others.

- And also to be changed – changed that we could never do on our own.
- And, so we need not fear of being put to the test, but we need to rise to the challenge of passing the test when the tests come along.

- We, also, need to realize that it's in Jesus that we pass the test – that we don't do it on our own.

Luke 4 (NASB), 1) Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,

- Now, Jesus just came out of being baptized in the Jordan River, where he was declared to be “the beloved Son of God.”
- And we've also been shown the genealogy of Jesus that takes Him all the way back to Adam, so He is the son of man.
- So, we see the confirmation here in the book of Luke that Jesus is declared to be both son of man and Son of God.
- Now, Jesus is entering into this time of testing or temptation, depending upon which translation you are reading.
- What's interesting is that this Greek word can also mean “proving.”
- And so, it's not necessarily a temptation as a temptation to sin but rather proving as in testing the character.
- Now, if we are going to walk into that testing, what do we want to be full of?
- It's the Holy Spirit.
- Now, wouldn't God the Son always be full of the Holy Spirit?
- Yes, God is always full of the Holy Spirit.
- But, Luke is emphasizing here in verse 1, the “manity” or humanity of Jesus,
- So, the son of man is walking into a place of testing.
- And this is part of our daily transformation process.
- So, if we're going to successfully deal with that place of testing, we better be sure that we're full of the Holy Spirit.
- Now, how do we be sure that we're full of the Holy Spirit?
- It's praying, studying, meditation and worship, which are spiritual disciplines, which put us on the path to be full of the Holy Spirit.
- This is available for all believers – prayer or conversation with God, study or contemplation of the word of God and curiosity, which is wanting to know more about God, which we do through study.
- So, conversation, curiosity, contemplation or prayer, study, meditation, worship, which is our participation, puts us on that path to be full of the Holy Spirit,
- By engaging in all our facets of life, we are being put to the test and the way we pass the test is being full of the Spirit.

1b) returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness 2) for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

- Now, Luke likes to go back and undo some of the bad stuff that Israel did and thus put us back on track, so to speak.
- What does 40 days in the wilderness remind us of?
- Its 40 years in the desert, in the wilderness.

- Now, the first temptation concerns bread and what does that remind us of?
- Its manna and Israel's test.
- So, what Luke is telling us is that our former brothers and sisters from the nation of Israel didn't get it right, but Jesus wasn't going to leave it that way.
- Jesus came back and did it right for them and also did it right for us.
- Now, the nation of Israel was put to the test, but they didn't pass it.
- Jesus past the test for us and He's showing us that we can pass the test today.

2) for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry. 3) And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

- Just like in the Garden of Eden, the devil wanted to go after Eve and then Adam with doubt.
- And the doubt was that, "If God really loved you, he wouldn't keep you from eating from this other tree. And since he is, there is something wrong here."
- The devil is using the same approach here with Jesus, but Jesus is both human and fully divine.

4) And Jesus answered him, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

- We need to note that Jesus responds back to the devil with scripture from the book of Deuteronomy, which was given to the Children of Israel, when they were in the wilderness.
- This refers to our spiritual side of life.

5) And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6) And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I want."

- Now, the devil had been given the kingdoms of the earth at that time, and Jesus hadn't taken it back, because Jesus had to pass suffering first to get to glory.
- And Satan is offering glory before suffering.
- But, the Father said to Jesus was that He would have to suffer first to receive glory.
- And, that should be another clue for all of us – if we have to face suffering to get to glory, this should remind us that's how Jesus got to glory, through suffering first.
- And this says something about our transformation.

7) Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." 8) Jesus replied to him, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

- So, when it comes to material possessions and the things of this world that dazzle us, Jesus is reminding us is that it's only God that we worship, not those things.

9) And he brought Him into Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here;

- The devil is challenging Jesus with self-preservation.

10) for it is written: 'He will give His angels orders concerning You, to protect You,' 11) and, 'On their hands they will lift You up, So that You do not strike Your foot against a stone.'" 12) And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been stated, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- So, when it comes to even self-preservation that can be a strong pull to us.
- But, we're not going to get out of this life alive.
- So, our physical life and death are not the ultimate.
- And Jesus didn't make it out of this life alive, did He?
- Now, He's alive, but He did die physically.

13) And so when the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

- Now, Jesus past the test, because He was ready for the test again because he was full of the Holy Spirit.
- And he was the Son of God and God loved Him and when he passed that test, He undid what happened in the Garden of Eden and what happened to Israel in the desert.
- And Jesus did all of this for us and he continues to do that for us.
- And so, when we feel that we're being put to the test, we have a great example to pass the test because He's passing that test for us daily.
- And so now we will take communion, as another way to prepare for the test, because we know that ultimately all of us will pass the test.

Communion by Ed Stonick:

- When we meet for communion, we are reminded of our Lord's command to remember: In **Luke 22:19** after Christ distributes the bread and wine to his disciples, he concludes by saying "**Do this in remembrance of Me.**"
- The theme of remembrance is familiar, yet powerful.
- One would hardly think that those who have been redeemed would need to be reminded of God's grace shown in Jesus Christ.
- But we do and that's why we take the elements frequently.
- In communion, God remembers, and we receive!
- He remembers His promises to us, His people, and He sets these promises before us on the table.
- Christ's body was given for you; his blood poured out for you.
- Jesus said, "**Do this in remembrance of me!**"
- Note that remembrance is commanded.
- We have authority for doing this – it was ordained by Christ himself.
- Remembrance is visible in the bread and cup – "**This is my body**" and "**This is my blood.**"
- Remembrance strengthens us.
- Our faith is strengthened and built up through eating, drinking, and remembering.

- And while this remembrance is historical, it is also personal.
- Jesus doesn't ask us to remember the date, place, and other details.
- We are never told to "Do this in remembrance of my death."
- The command is "Do this in remembrance of me."
- Our relationship with Christ is a personal one.
- Jesus tells us, "**Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**"
- We are reminded in scripture such as **Psalm 25:6-7**, "**Remember, O Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.**"
- And we're told in **Jeremiah 31: 31, 34**, "**The time is coming,**" declares the Lord, "**when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**".
- And **Psalm 111:4-5**, reminds us, "**The Lord is gracious and compassionate. He remembers his covenant forever.**"
- Let's remember the gracious love of our Father in heaven who made us children of his own possession.
- We'll now take the elements together.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father! As we take the communion elements let us remember Your great mercy and love, and the fact that You cover and put away our sins. Let us remember Your graciousness and compassion.

Most of all let us remember our Lord Jesus Christ, sent by You Father God to share our human nature, to live and to die as one of us, and so to move us from the alienation of sin and death.

Jesus reconciled us to You by His perfect sacrifice, and through His suffering, death, and resurrection He saves all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you Holy Spirit for teaching us these things and making the effects of Christ's salvation real and powerful in our lives.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen!

- So, let's take the bread, which is his body given for us and the wine which symbolizes his blood for our final salvation.