**“Hope in Temptation”**

**Going deeper in Luke 4:1-13 & Hebrews 4:15**

**INTRODUCTION -** Jesus was baptized by his cousin, John in the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove had descended upon him and a voice from heaven declared, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Jesus is preparing for his appointed ministry and for the ultimate task he had come to fulfill.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**Luke 4:1-13**

**4**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, **2**where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

**3**The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

**4**Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’

**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.”

**8**Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’

**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.’

**12**Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’

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

**Hebrews 4:15**

**15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Under what circumstances was Jesus tempted? How does this relate to when you are most susceptible to temptation?

2. In each temptation, what was its appeal? Its price/consequence should Jesus give in?

3. Jesus is offered “a crown without the cross”. Why is this such a powerful temptation – and how does temptation of this form arise in your life?

4. What does Jesus’ resistance teach you about how you can resist temptation?

5. What is the significance for your eternal salvation and current situation that Jesus was fully human? That Jesus was without sin?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks that our High Priest knows exactly what it is to be tempted and for his total loyalty to the will of his Father!

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to resist the spiritual short cuts Satan may tempt you to take.

\*Pray that you may seek to have God’s words hidden in your heart that you might not sin against him.

\*Ask to be led to pray, fast, and give during Lent as a means to clear out everything that keeps you from growing in faith.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

What disciplines will you practice; what habits will you abstain from, during this Season of Lent as a way to repentance and renewal? Jesus was extremely vulnerable when Satan offered up his lies and short cuts in an attempt to subvert Jesus’ relationship with God. Jesus resisted! As you read the Luke 4 story, how will you respond to what you learn about Jesus? Satan?