

## I. Intro

## A. 2 weeks into our Bible reading plan for the year

1. First, don't stop!
2. Second, consider your Bible reading routine
  - a) When? Where? How? Why? – for knowledge or understanding
    - (1) Aim for knowledge, you will likely miss understanding
    - (2) Aim for understanding, you will get knowledge too

B. *A helpful exercise to enhance your Bible reading*

1. *As you read, pause and try to summarize what you read*
  - a) *Summarize the story*
  - b) *Summarize the larger story*
  - c) *Summarize what it requires of you [Deut 10:12]*
2. *If you can summarize using your own words, you are in understanding territory*

## C. Put this to practice in Luke 4...

## II. Text

**A. Luke 4:1-13**

1. What is the story?
  - a) After baptism, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness [MAP]
  - b) Fasted for 40 days, tempted 3x by the devil
    - (1) Temptation 1 – prove who you are “if you are the son of God...”
      - (a) Jesus answered with scripture [Deut 8:3]
    - (2) Temptation 2 – take a short cut “I’ll give this...if you bow down”
      - (a) Jesus answered with scripture [Deut 6:13]
    - (3) Temptation 3 – prove your faithfulness to scripture “If you trust God, jump”
      - (a) Jesus answered with scripture [Deut 6:16]
  - c) Satan had no victory, he fled
2. What is the larger story?
  - a) This story mirrors two colossal failures in human history
    - (1) Eden – when mankind believed the devil’s first lies

- (2) Israel – 40 years of wandering temptations (food, idols, testing God)
- (3) Adam was God's son = failed, Israel was God's son = failed [Deut 1:30-31]
- b) The larger story is Jesus, the better Adam and better Israel – the better human
  - (1) Jesus conquers His adversary, and He does it with scripture
- 3. *What are these verses requiring of us?*
  - a) *A mastery of scripture – not a mere knowledge, but an understanding*
  - b) *An understanding that keeps us from misuse AND deception [vs 10, Psalm 91]*
  - c) *Scripture is truth – it exposes lies and equips us to resist the enemy*

**B. Luke 4:14-30**

- 1. What is the story?
  - a) After the wilderness, Jesus taught and ministered in Galilee (north Israel)
  - b) Very successful, until he went to Nazareth – his hometown
    - (1) Read Isaiah 61:1-2 in synagog and proclaimed it – prophecy fulfilled
    - (2) Everyone marveled, until he began to interpret the prophecy
    - (3) Nazareth wanted the good stuff from Isaiah and Galilee, but not Him
    - (4) Nazareth wanted the blessing, but not the whole message – repentance
- 2. What is the larger story?
  - a) Jesus' hometown was a picture of ancient Israel during the time of Kings
    - (1) They wanted God's blessing, but not Him. Not His message of repentance
    - (2) Wanted healing and protection, but not the covenant that comes with it
  - b) Nazareth was like Israel at the time of Elijah and Elisha
    - (1) So unfaithful that God sent his prophets to Gentiles and nonbelievers
    - (2) Jesus told Nazareth – gentiles will see this prophecy, but not you
  - c) This angered Nazareth and it's why they tried to kill Jesus
- 3. *What are these verses requiring of us?*
  - a) *They require us to consider how we will receive the scripture we read*
  - b) *Will we receive God's word like the synagogs in vs15 or vs28*
    - (1) *Will the conviction of God's Word bring us to our knees, cause joy?*
    - (2) *Will we chase Jesus away because we love our lives and love this world?*

**C. Luke 4:31-37**

1. What is the story?
  - a) Jesus continued teaching in synagogues and it stirred up demonic activity
  - b) But guess what, Jesus has authority over the spiritual realm
2. The larger story?
  - a) Unclean spirits are either fallen angels or Rephaim [1 Sam 17-18, 2 Sam 4-5]
    - (1) Rephaim are dead giant spirits who roam the earth – unlike human spirits
    - (2) 2nd temple Jewish scholars called Rephaim unclean spirits or demons
    - (3) Explains why they are constantly looking for a body
    - (4) Spiritual war goes back to Joshua [Josh 11:21-23] and David [2 Sam 5:6-16]
  - b) Whatever these spirits are, Jesus has FULL authority over them
3. Let's finish reading before we consider what this requires of us

**D. Luke 4:38-44**

1. The story?
  - a) Jesus has authority over the spiritual realm AND the physical realm
  - b) He heals Peter's mother-in-law and multitudes in Galilee
2. The larger story?
  - a) Jesus is fulfilling 700-year prophecy from Isaiah
  - b) Proclaiming good news, setting captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight
  - c) Teaching good news and backing it up with evidence – signs and wonders

## III. Conclusion

A. *What does this require of us?*

1. *The same thing required of Peter's mom when Jesus healed her*
  - a) *Vs39 – when healed, she immediately rose and began to serve*
2. *Luke 4 speaks loudly*
  - a) *We must digest scripture daily – build a sustainable routine, a steady diet*
  - b) *We must respond humbly to scripture – let it form us, shape us, heal us*
  - c) *We must get up to serve others AND proclaim this message in the towns (vs43)*

B. *In short, behold your God and tell everyone what you see – Amen? Amen!*