

Just Say No (Part 2)

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 4:1-4

→ “The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone”’ (vv. 3-4).



Big Idea

Those who have been brought into Jesus, participate in His “No!” in their stand against the Devil. His “No!” makes our “No!” possible and even, ultimately, certain.

(1) 2 Opening Observations (vv. 1-2)

(1) **“Being Tempted”**—Temptation may differ in degree but it is always present. Just because the lion the doesn’t always strike with recognizable ferocity doesn’t mean he isn’t always prowling in the shadows, baiting and waiting.

(2) **Fasting as both Weakness and Strength**—While in one sense fasting makes Jesus most vulnerable to this first temptation, in another sense it makes Him most ready to resist it! Fasting helps us keep our desires, our appetites in check, in submission to the One who ultimately satisfies, God. It trains us in the day of relative peace to say “No!” in the day of absolute war!

(2) The Satanic Temptation (v. 3)

(1) **Defamation of Character**—Before Satan aims his words anywhere else, he aims them at the glory, at the character of God.

(2) **Identity Crisis**—As Satan aims to get us questioning who God is, he is also aiming to get us questioning who God has said we are.

(3) **Tyranny of the Urgent**—If Satan can get us to question God’s character and bring our own identity as His children into crisis, then he will easily get us to bow to the tyranny of the urgent. For if God has abandoned me, if there is no hope of a future glory, why endure trial? If God is not going to take care of me, then I might as well take care of myself...starting right now.

(3) The Messianic Resistance (v. 4)

Christ, at the end of 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, throws Deut 8:3 in the devil’s face, as if to say: “What Israel failed to learn, this Son knows by heart: ‘Man doesn’t live by bread alone.’ God is faithful. I am His beloved Son. And though I am hungry now, He will always provide for Me in the end!”

He matches Satan’s subtleties with subtleties of His own. For hidden in plain sight in the manna narrative of the OT, is the gospel of the cross. O what a Savior! When the devil would try to subtly point Him away from the cross, He subtly points the devil right back it. His love is for us is unswerving!



Critical Action

Come and feast on the Son in the wilderness of your temptations. And because of His “No!”, you will find yourself able to say the same.

Reflection Questions

- How is all of life a temptation? When have you been taken off guard by temptation? How can you be more sober-minded and watchful?
- Have you ever fasted before? What was your experience like? How did it make you weak-strong? How did it prepare you for combat with the devil? Should you fast more often?
- Describe your experience of the three aspects of satanic temptation noted above. Though they are all related, is there one that Satan seems to hit you hardest with? What would help you resist?

