

Just Say No (Part 3)

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 4:1-12

→ “And Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test”’” (v. 12).



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) The Mountain Temptation (vv. 5-8)

If Satan can't get us to leave God because of our pain, he will try to get us to leave God because of the world's pleasure. If He can't get us to conclude that God is malevolent and against us, certainly he will try to get us thinking that other things are more pleasurable.

Some of us relate more with the first temptation. You're starving. You feel the deficiency, the emptiness, the suffering. And you're tempted to break with God just to survive another day. Others of us, relate more to this second temptation. The world seems to have been set before you for the taking. This is Silicon Valley. You've got the job. You know how to play the game. You're getting closer to the top. You want that salary that will allow you to have and do everything you ever wanted and more. The only catch: you have to sell your soul to get it.

We watch our Savior resisting for His people. He will get His kingdom, but He will wait to receive it from His Father's hand, in His Father's timing, according to His Father's will, by way of the cross!

(2) The Temple Temptation (vv. 9-12)

By all accounts it looks like throwing one's self down would be an expression of great faith. But, as one commentator puts it, truly such an act would be “unbelief masquerading as faith” (Bock, 381).

There's question about God's ability and willingness to provide and protect—“Will He be there for me?!” There's question about Jesus' identity: “If you are the Son of God” (v. 9)—“Am I the Son? Let's see.”

There's demand for immediate proof instead of trusting and waiting. “I know you spoke love over me at my baptism but I need proof now. Your words, Your pleasure in me then are not enough for me now.” Such an act, far from expressing faith in God, would actually be a slap in God's face!

But Jesus will not have it! And He quotes from the text He does to rub this in the devil's face: “Not only will I not put my God to the test, but do you remember Massah? Do you remember the groaning and the grumbling? You thought you'd won, until God responded to all this sin, with grace: ‘Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink’ (v. 6). Water from a stricken rock, so that sinners can live. Satan, that rock is Me (1 Cor 10:4)!”



Critical Action

Because of the Son's resistance and His Spirit within you, now you can also worship the Lord your God and not put Him to the test.

Reflection Questions

- What has you more tempted to turn from God right now: poverty or prosperity, pain or pleasure? How does Jesus help us say “No!”
- How have you seen the devil use Scripture to destroy? How can we guard against this?
- Are you picking petals to discern the Lord's love? What circumstances seem to tell you “He loves you”? What circumstances seem to tell you “He loves you not”? How does the cross speak a better word?

