

# Just Say No (Part 4)

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 4:1-13

→ “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time” (v. 13).



## Big Idea

Jesus’ resistance of these three temptations does not make a full stop of the devil. Instead Luke prepares us for an even greater clashing of the Son and Satan that will take place at the cross.

As we consider Satan’s activity in the unfolding gospel narrative, we might see him as one operating a furnace. As Luke’s gospel progresses, it’s as if he’s turning the heat up: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 until the flame is white-hot against the Son on Calvary’s hill.

### Level 1

In Luke 4:41, the demons are trying to incite a crowd of people to make Him king on the earth in the immediate (much like the 2nd temptation in 3:5-7). They hope that the Son might start to so desire power and authority now that he will forego the way of the cross later. But Jesus will not have it. “Silence! I will ascend to the throne of David, but it will be through death, even death on a cross!”

### Level 2

Luke orients his entire gospel around Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem to die—a journey which begins in ch. 9: “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (v. 51). The time is drawing near. It’s as if the center of gravity starts to shift in Luke 9 and the sheer weight of the coming conflict at Calvary starts to pull in the whole narrative. And consequently, we find it is here that the devil turns up the heat.

### Level 3

While much clashing occurs between Jesus and the devil in the chapters that follow ch. 9, we move now through ch. 19, where Jesus finally enters Jerusalem, to ch. 22, where the devil turns up the heat one more notch—white-hot.

First, the devil’s going to start with His friends. Judas will betray. Peter will deny. Then the devil’s going to turn the whole world against Him at the cross: Jews and Gentiles alike, railing at the Son of God... who’s come to save them!

And, just as there was a threefold temptation at the inaugural point of His ministry, so now we find a threefold temptation at its terminal point (Luke 23:35-39). The devil has come to complete what he began back in the wilderness. He’s come now to harvest those seeds he scattered years before. But the Son resists to the end and in so doing opens the door for us to the paradise-presence of God!



## Critical Action

May we add our voices to this criminal’s in praise of the Son—the first and only One to ever tell the devil “No!” and hold it firm to the end. He did it for us!

## Reflection Questions

- How do you react when everyone is ready to speak well of you? Is that your life’s goal? Would you rather reign as king now apart from the Father, or reign later with Him?
- Is the love of the Father enough for you? Do you know His love for you, His delight in you? There is no other way to successfully resist the devil. How have you experienced this?
- Why did Jesus endure these temptations and trials? What was He trying to accomplish? What does this mean for you?

