

Introduction

- 1 We were living in a small country town with a double-gate with wire in the driveway to keep dog in
- 2 Came home from church one Sunday afternoon, 10 yo Luke opened right gate with wire mesh covering
- 3 What none of us noticed until the right gate was open that there was vine snake curled in the wire.
- 4 Vine snakes are quite poisonous and Luke had unknowingly been in danger of being bitten & poisoned
- 5 Chns often forget that Satan is always active trying to tempt them to fall into sin, disobey God **1 Pet 5:8**

I 4:1 Background to this Passage

- 1 **1:26-38** Angel Gabriel told Mary God had chosen her to give birth to a special child although was virgin
- 2 The Holy Spirit would come upon her, would be called the Son of God and was to be given name Jesus
- 3 **3:21-22** After John the Baptist had baptised Jesus in the Jordan, heaven was opened, God the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, a voice came down from heaven "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased". Jesus was announced as the Messiah, promised often in OT
- 4 **4:16-21** He was just about to begin His 3 year ministry as God's Messiah as Luke quotes from **Isaiah 61:1-2**
- 5 **4:1** But to prepare Jesus, 100% God/100% man, for public ministry H.S. led Him to desert to be tempted
- 6 Why? If He was to identify with people/their needs had to experience temptation like them in all ways

II 4:2-11 During 40 days and 40 nights, 3 times Satan tempted Jesus, who responded**A 4:2-4 Use His special powers to satisfy physical hunger – Turn stones into bread - unbelief**

- 1 After Jesus hadn't eaten anything for almost 40 days & was hungry, Satan approached him with plan
 - a He comes to Jesus when He's weak & exhausted with 40 days of hunger-can't trust God any longer!
 - b Obvious God isn't interested in your physical needs, gave Israel Manna in desert for 40 yrs - fix this
 - c Don't trust God to give you food, instead work a miracle to gratify your appetite, give you strength
 - d If you are God's Son don't wait any longer, just speak to these stones and they will become bread
- 2 **4:4** Lord gave a very wise answer-bread only satisfies physical needs, but man also has spiritual needs
 - a I am definitely hungry, but God wants everyone to know man needs both physical & spiritual bread
 - b Did He have power to create bread? Yes later fed 5000 men + women/children from 5 loaves, 2 fish
 - c But was not going to use this power for Himself – instead He planned to trust God for all His needs
 - d Jesus knew obeying God's Word is more important than satisfying the need of food for the body
- 3 We are also tempted by Satan
 - a No time to pray/read Bible as am too busy with my own things
 - b May be tempted to stay at home & not attend church or Bible Study to catch up on work or sport
 - c So place needs of the body 1st – but Bible encourages us strongly to meet with other Chns regularly
- 4 We all ensure we eat 2/4 meals daily for our bodies, but do we same for our souls by reading Bible?

B 4:5-8 Worship Satan just once as ruler of this present world - worldliness

- 1 Satan promised to give Jesus all the kingdoms of this world if Jesus fell down and worshipped him
 - a Could Satan do this? **b John 12:31** tells he is the present prince of this world **c** There is no country in the world which follows Jesus' teaching 100% ? **d** All follow their own plans **e** Satan tried to deceive Jesus, as he had no authority to pass over any world kingdom to anyone without God's permission
 - e** Satan tempted Jesus to avoid physical/mental sufferings on cross -offered easy way to world power
 - f** Main reason Jesus came to earth - to die as perfect sacrifice to pay price for man's sin against God
 - g** No other man could pay price as perfect God/perfect man-all must be saved from God's judgement
- 2 **4:8** Jesus' response was immediate – quotes from **Deut 6:13** – Must only worship God, no-one else
 - a Wanted to show Satan God was far superior to Satan in every way-was only One worthy of worship
- 3 Satan tempts Chns to give other things 1st place in lives instead of God-Money, position, education work, family, sport, homes **Math 16:26** "What good will it be if a man gains the whole world, yet loses his soul"

C 4:9-12 Test God in foolish ways when He has promised to care for us – presumption

- 1 **a** Satan takes Jesus to the highest point of the temple, if you are God's Son throw yourself down
- 2 **b** Angels will protect Him from harm-would give public proof of who he was only quoted **Psa. 91:11-12**
- 3 **c** **Psalm 91** God promises to protect those who trust Him, give Him 1st place, daily seek to serve Him
- 4 **d** But Satan asked Jesus to create situation where He would face danger & expect God's protection
- 5 Lord's immed. response - Don't test God by assuming God will protect no matter what person does
- 6 **eg** Go on a trip, ask God to protect us, then test this promise by driving way above the speed limit
- 7 Take risks when we go bushwalking or swim in dangerous places or handle snakes - **Mark 16:18**

III Main lessons from these verses to help us as Christians who have repented and believed in Jesus

A 4:13 Satan is the real enemy of God, His Plan for the world and those who trust in Him

- 1 Bible teaches that Satan, one of God's chief angels rebelled against God and tried to replace God
- 2 1/3rd of God's angels joined Satan - They failed but have continued to try and destroy God's plans
- 3 **Rev 12:9** "The great dragon was hurled down- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him" – **The great Deceiver & Accuser**
- 4 In **Gen 3** Satan entered serpent in G. of Eden. tempted Eve to eat forbidden fruit, she/Adam rebelled
- 5 Sin entered world and every single person born since then is naturally sinful and self-centred **Rom 5:12**
- 6 Ever since Satan & servants (evil spirits/demons) have been actively fighting against God's purposes
- 7 They try to stop people repenting/believing and for Chns their goal is to destroy, diminish their faith
- 8 Satan's far stronger than any Chn-Remember Jesus defeated devil's power thru' His death/resur'tion
- 9 **1 Pet 5:6-8** **Humble yourselves under God.. Cast all your anxiety on Him.. your enemy.. prowls around like roaring lion**
- 10 **4:13** Satan failed to tempt Jesus but doesn't give up-**Math 16:22-23** Tried to use Peter in same way-failed

B Lord Jesus as God's Son passed completely God's Test of Obedience, so He can be 100% trusted

- 1 Jesus as the true Son of God, unlike any others called "sons of God", showing He can be fully trusted
- 2 All others in Bible described as sons of God all failed to fully trust God all the time **a** Adam was 1st son of God, his disob.-created sin **b** Israel **c** King David **c** King Solomon etc failed-Only Jesus obeyed 100%
- 3 Any religion/belief system refusing to believe Jesus is God's sinless Son lived, died, rose again is false
- 4 Jesus isn't just a prophet, good man-if Not 100% God, then He is the biggest Liar the world's ever seen
- 5 He can be relied upon to help when we are tempted to sin, rebel against God **Heb 4:14-16** **Jesus was tempted in every way as we are, yet was without sin, so can approach him in prayer confidently to receive help"**
- 6 Jesus is the only Person in whole world who can be fully trusted with all our needs – 100% reliable

C Jesus used the Word of God to defeat every way Satan tried to tempt Him to sin

- 1 Lord used OT verses-**Deut** to defend Himself against all 3 temptations-unbelief, worldliness, testing God
- 2 To resist Satan's temptations must learn/memorise OT/NT to defend ourselves against these-**Ps. 119:11**
- 3 We are confronted with every type of temptation just go into magazine, DVD shops, watch movies, TV programmes, internet, facebook- where sex, deceit/cheating/lying/violence/corruption are main focus
- 4 Don't think you are the only one tempted/influenced by ways of world, Satan, fleshly desires **1 Cor 10:13**
- 5 Every born again Chn has H. Spirit living in their hearts, who is overall Author of Bible-He wants to help
- 6 Whoever moves away from regular daily practices - no or limited time for prayer, confessing sins, not opening/reading Bible for days, erratic church attendance will be spiritually empty, be tempted to sin
- 7 In early 1980s, family went to small village church which had small covered entrance with enough room to open the door against the wall –After service 2 kids & I left church as was special women's meeting – kids playing in that area, I was selling books near entrance – Lady came out meeting pulled open door to retrieve her umbrella behind it, when spitting cobra looked around the door, she slammed door shut
- 8 Often Satan is at the door & tempts us to ignore what we have learned from Bible that day **James 4:7-8**
- 9 Remember Jesus defeated Satan's power by his death/resurrection–trust Him–**resist devil, he'll flee from you**

