

Title: A CONFRONTATION WITH EVIL, LUKE 4:1-13.  
(Chatham, NJ; 02/21/10, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: Jesus' confrontation with Satan in the desert demonstrates that his purpose in coming was to address the problem of evil.

Purpose: To assure that Christ has conquered evil and to provide another set of ideas that can be explained to others easily.

Introduction:

1. Christians should never ignore the reality of evil.
2. Jesus opposes and is opposed by strong forces of evil: Satan, as well as evil humans.
3. His followers experience the same struggle. Our faith doesn't recoil from it nor does it describe it in euphemisms. We don't try to make it seem not so bad.
4. Ephesians 4:9-10 provides us with a ready motif to explain how God deals with it: Jesus descends and ascends. The purpose of the movements is to oppose and destroy evil.

I. Jesus Came Near – He Descended (Eph. 4:9); He Confronted Evil.

A. The forty days.

1. Moses was on Mt. Sinai for forty days before he received the covenant.
2. Elijah spent 40 days traveling to Mt. Sinai to meet with God.
3. Israel spent forty years in the wilderness preparing to be the covenant people.
4. They were learning to depend on God, Deut. 8:2-6.
5. Jesus quotes verse 3 to resist Satan.
6. The forty days demonstrates that Jesus was fully human, but it illustrates the true nature of his descending that he sought to oppose and overcome evil.

B. Jesus came near.

1. Moses assures Israel that God's words and commands are not far off, Deut. 30:11-14.
2. Serving him demanded only that they aspire to obedience.
3. Jesus descended from heaven to live among us as a servant, Philippians 2:5-11.
4. Remember this passage. We'll look at it more closely next Sunday morning in class when we talk about emptying.

II. While Here – He Opposed and Conquered Evil.

A. The temptations, Luke 4:1-13.

1. Let's look at a few insights rather than analyze each temptation in detail.
2. No one and no thing should be worshipped except God. This comes directly from Deuteronomy, but it also reflects the first commandment to have no other gods. The Kingdom of God demands loyalty.
3. Only God's Word provides true and lasting sustenance. In the wilderness Israel learned this through discipline. Once again Jesus draws from Deuteronomy. He will be the bread that God gives for the life of the world.
4. We must not presume upon God's protection. This becomes quarrelsome and contentious toward God rather than humble. Jesus had to suffer though he could depend on his Father for deliverance.

B. Temptations reflect evil inclinations.

1. Jesus locates uncleanness squarely in the human heart, Mark 7:20-21.
2. The battle against evil is not against flesh and blood, Eph. 6:12, but against spiritual powers.
3. In the desert that power sought to deter Jesus from his mission.
4. He deflected the temptations by using the Word of God as a weapon.
5. Jesus ultimately defeated Satan through the cross but also through his sinless life, Heb. 4:15.

### III. He Ascended, Eph. 4:10.

#### A. He sits at the right hand of God.

1. Peter saw him leave in Acts 1:9-10.
2. He spoke later of his coronation, 1 Peter 3:22.

#### B. He intercedes for us.

1. He is a sinless and sympathetic high priest, Heb. 4:14-15.
2. We have confidence to approach him, Heb. 4:16.
3. He is able to help those who are being tempted, Heb. 2:18.

#### C. He will return for judgment and salvation.

1. The angels told the Apostles to expect him, Acts 1:11.
2. Jesus taught the resurrection of all souls for judgment, John 5:28-29.
3. The Parable of the Weeds suggests a time of a harvest of souls, Mt. 13.

### Conclusion:

1. The story of Christ descending, conquering, and ascending is the Gospel.
2. Beginning with Ephesians 4:9-10 you can share this with people on your impact list.
3. This is the way the church grows: one-on-one sharing of the Gospel.
4. This can be an initial discussion to invite them to the Newcomer's Class.
5. Believe the story; make it one of the reasons you can give for the hope that is in you; live as a witness to the hope of his return.
6. Respond to it today if you believe!