

Forged in Fire

—Riddles from Q, Week 1—

Luke 4:1-13/Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13 (NIV)

Mark 1:12-13

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

(see verses 8-10)

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,

and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

(see verses 5-8)

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) put a box around material that is unique to either gospel; (2) Material that is shared exactly you can underline in both gospels; and (3) Material that is similar you can underline with a dotted line in both gospels.

Truths about the Gospels

1. The gospel writers used a mix of _____ and _____ sources (see Luke 1:1-4).
2. The Gospel of Mark was likely written _____, based on its length of accounts, rougher grammar, and more difficult wording (compare Mark 1:12 with Matt 4:1).
3. Matthew and Luke both most likely used _____ as a source when writing their gospels (compare “let the reader understand” in Mark 13:14 and Matt 24:15).
4. Matthew and Luke both seem to have access to a shared source of material not in Mark (material common to both Matthew and Luke, but not in Mark). This is known as “Q,” from the German word meaning “_____.” Q is perhaps a mixture of written and oral content. (Note: Matt and Luke also have unique material found only in them).
5. The gospel writers are often flexible in _____, using various kinds of paraphrase, omissions, and additions (compare Matt 4:2 and Luke 4:2).
6. The gospel writers are also often flexible with _____, rearranging material to bring out different emphases (compare the order of temptations in this passage).
7. We believe this was all done by the inspired guidance of the Holy Spirit, so we have four inspired _____, or _____, on Jesus.
8. We believe that because the gospels are inspired by God, they are also _____, meaning that when all info is known, they make no mistakes or ultimate logical contradictions. *Yet we must allow for considerations of genre, ancient literary practice, and editorial creativity*, since God used these forms to convey His revelation.
9. By observing what the gospel writers add, omit, or change, we can get insight into their special _____ and _____ (see how Luke adds “full of the Spirit” in 4:1).
10. For this passage, _____ likely preserves the order of the account as found in Q, while _____ rearranges the temptations so that the last temptation occurs at the temple.

Truths about Jesus

1. Jesus is the faithful Son of God, who succeeded where the Son of God, _____, failed (see Luke 3:38).
2. Jesus is the faithful Son of God, who succeeded where the Son of God, _____, failed (see Matt 2:15).
3. Jesus experienced the full measure of temptation, yet remained _____.
4. Jesus refused _____ and prioritized God’s _____ for the accomplishment of his mission.
5. Jesus _____ the Devil utterly, here in resisting temptation, later in exorcism and his faithfulness unto death and resurrection.

Truths about Us

1. The Spirit will at times lead us into opportunities to _____ the flesh and temptation; this is often the mechanism of _____.
2. _____ is an effective spiritual discipline, and opportunity to “enter the arena” in order to battle the flesh.
3. We must use Scriptural truth to oppose temptations, meaning we must be _____ with Scripture and have key parts _____ in order to use it.
4. It can be valuable to quote Scripture _____ to resist temptation.
5. The _____ is adept at using even Scripture to tempt and deceive, so we should expect no less from his human servants. We must learn to read the Scripture as God intended, in its cultural and biblical context, as well as in the context of the Christian history of belief in the Church.
6. Temptation will often appeal to our _____ in contradiction to God’s will, along with challenges to our _____ in God’s goodness to provide for us.
7. _____ over temptation is possible!

The Bottom Line

_____ **Jesus, the faithful** _____, **who** _____ **every** _____

...by _____ in Jesus, the true Son of God who succeeded where Humanity and Israel failed.

...by not being _____ by temptation, but by _____ it as an _____ to grow and prove our faith.

...by _____ Jesus in the use of scriptural truth to resist temptation.