

# The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

## Chapter 4

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft<sup>1</sup>

### Background

- Fasting was believed to enhance one's awareness of unseen spirits.
- Jesus has a spiritual enemy called the devil, who had successfully tempted Adam and Eve.
- The devil expertly handles Scripture to deceive and seduce human beings.
- Gospel accounts are not always presented in calendar order.
- Jews valued literacy, so there were literate men nearly everywhere.
- Jews employed herbs and rituals to [try to?] expel demons.
- The Sabbath ended at sundown, allowing folk to carry the sick without breaking the Sabbath laws prohibiting work.
- Village homes were so crowded that there was nowhere to be alone.

### History

- Angels had announced the soon births of John and of Jesus.
- John had baptized Jesus, whereupon the Holy Spirit came to him, and a voice from heaven identified him as God's Son, a title of the awaited Messiah..

### Themes

- The Messiah has come.
- Messiah resists the devil's temptations.
- The Messiah has authority to heal diseases and to expel evil spirits.

### Satan tempts Jesus, but Jesus does not sin

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus left the Jordan River valley, the Holy Spirit was guiding him. <sup>2</sup> For 40 days, the Spirit led him around in the wilderness. During that time, the devil was trying to make him sin. At the same time, Jesus was not eating any food. So, when those days ended, he was very hungry. <sup>3</sup> Then the devil, *pointing to a stone on the ground*, said to Jesus, "Because you are the one called God's Son, command this stone to become bread/food, *so that you can eat it!*" <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "No, I will not do so, because the prophet

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<sup>1</sup> Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted <sup>(pl)</sup> means plural, <sup>(sg)</sup> singular, <sup>(inc)</sup> inclusive, <sup>(exc)</sup> exclusive pronoun.

Moses wrote in the Scriptures, "People do not live only by eating food, *but they also live by obeying God's words.*"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Jesus to a mountain top, where he showed him in an instant all the nations/kingdoms in the world. <sup>6</sup> He said to Jesus, "I will give to you authority to rule over all these nations and their wealth. I can do so, because God has given this authority to me, and I can give this authority to whomever I choose/please/desire. <sup>7</sup> So if you worship/bow down to me, then I will give to you all those nations!" <sup>8</sup> But Jesus refused / replied, "No, I will not worship you, because the prophet Moses wrote in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord, your God, and you must serve only him. *You must not worship/follow any other god!*'"<sup>3</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem city, and set him on the highest part at the Temple. Then he said to him, "Because you are the one called God's Son, jump down to the ground/floor from here. 10 You will not be hurt, because a prophet wrote this in the Scriptures:

'God will command his angels to protect you<sup>(sg)</sup>,'

<sup>11</sup> His angels will lift you up with their hands when you are falling, so that you will not be hurt.

You will not even strike your foot on a stone.'"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>12</sup> But Jesus replied, "No, I will not do so, because the prophet Moses wrote in the Scriptures, 'Do not test the Lord your<sup>(pl)</sup> God, to see if he will fulfill his promise before you<sup>(pl)</sup> obey him.'"<sup>13</sup> After the devil finished trying to tempt Jesus in many ways, he left him. *The devil wanted to try to tempt Jesus later at an appropriate/opportune time.*

## Jesus in Galilee teaches and does miracles

<sup>4</sup> Continually empowered by the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned to Galilee district. People throughout all that region heard about what he was doing.<sup>5</sup> <sup>15</sup> Because he was teaching people in their synagogues, and healing their diseases, everybody was praising him to others. <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus went to Nazareth, which was the town where he grew up.<sup>6</sup> On the Sabbath day, as he usually did, he went to the synagogue. While there, he stood up *to show that he wanted to read*<sup>7</sup> Scriptures to them.

<sup>7</sup> A scroll-keeper gave/handed to him a scroll *containing the words that the prophet Isaiah had written long ago.* He opened the scroll and found the place *from which he wanted to read.* He read aloud these words:

<sup>18</sup> "The Lord has put his Holy Spirit upon me.

He has appointed me to declare God's good message to the poor.

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<sup>2</sup> Moses wrote in Deut. 8:3, "One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." Matt. 4:4 quotes the whole sentence, as do some mss at Luke 4:4. Jesus was refusing to obey the devil.

<sup>3</sup> OR You must worship the Lord, your God, and you must serve only him. Jesus cites Deut. 6:13. The next verse (6:14) prohibits worship of any other god.

<sup>4</sup> OR Not even a stone will hit your foot. Verses 10 and 11 are in the form of a song or a poem. Try to use your language's form for songs or poems.

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 9:35 reads, "teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness."

<sup>6</sup> OR where he lived with his parents and siblings. OR where he lived as a child.

<sup>7</sup> OR The leaders asked him to stand up and read Scriptures to everybody.

## The Good News about Jesus as Luke Wrote it

The Lord has sent me here to proclaim that God will rescue those *whom Satan has* captured, and he will give me power me to cause those who are blind to see.

The Lord will enable me to make free people *whose enemies* oppress them.

<sup>19</sup> And he has sent me to declare that the Lord/God will act favorably towards people, this year.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus rolled up the scroll and gave/handed it back to the scroll-keeper, and sat down to teach the people. Everyone in the synagogue was looking intently at him. <sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Today, as you were hearing me speak, I have begun to fulfill this Scripture passage.”

<sup>22</sup> At first, most people there spoke well about Jesus, because they were amazed at the kind/gracious/good words that he spoke. But some people said, “He is only Joseph’s son! We do not have to listen to what he says!” <sup>23</sup> So Jesus said to them all, “Surely, some people among you will quote to me the proverb that says, ‘Doctor, heal yourself!’ What you will mean is, ‘People told us that you did miracles in Capernaum town, *but we<sup>(exc)</sup> do not know if those reports are true.* So do miracles here in your own hometown, too!’”

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said, “It is certainly true that people do not accept/believe messages that a prophet speaks in his hometown, *just as you<sup>(pl)</sup> are not accepting/believing my message now.* <sup>25</sup> But think about this: There were many widows<sup>8</sup> in Israel land during the time/years when the prophet Elijah lived. During that time, when no rain fell for three years and six months,<sup>9</sup> there was a severe famine throughout the country. <sup>26</sup> But God did not send Elijah to help any widows in Israel land. Instead, God sent him to a *gentile* town called Zarephath near Sidon city, to help a widow who was a non-Jew. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel land during the time/years when the prophet Elisha lived. But Elisha did not heal any amongst them. Instead, he healed only Naaman, a *foreigner* from Syria land.”

<sup>28</sup> When the people in the synagogue heard Jesus say that, many became very angry, *because (they understood that) Jesus meant/was saying that God would not do any miracles for them because they did not believe him,<sup>10</sup> they doubted that God had sent Jesus to save them.* <sup>29</sup> So they all stood up and forced Jesus<sup>11</sup> out from the town. They took him to the hilltop outside their town, to throw him off the cliff, to kill him. <sup>30</sup> But he simply walked through their midst and went away/on his way.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> OR women whose husbands died.

<sup>9</sup> OR for 3 ½ years.

<sup>10</sup> OR because they were offended that Jesus would help foreigners before he would help them.

OR *because they realized that Jesus meant that he similarly would help non-Jewish people who trusted/believed God instead of helping Jews who doubted God’s power.* OR *because Jesus inferred that they also were not worthy of receiving God’s help.*

If it is clear in your translation why the people were angry at Jesus, then you do not need to include this implied information. But if people in your community do not understand why the Jews were angry at Jesus, then include the explanation in your translation.

<sup>11</sup> OR shoved Jesus. OR pushed / half-carried him.

<sup>12</sup> OR and continued on his way.

## Jesus visits other places where people believe him

<sup>31</sup> One day Jesus went to Capernaum town in Galilee district. The next Sabbath Day, he taught the people in their synagogue. <sup>32</sup> While listening to him, they were amazed at what he was teaching, because he spoke with authority from God.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>33</sup> One Sabbath Day, a man came to the synagogue, who had in him<sup>14</sup> an evil spirit. Suddenly, the man shouted very loudly, <sup>34</sup> “Hey! Jesus, from Nazareth! I know who you are! You are God’s Holy Son/Messenger! Leave us evil spirits alone! Do not punish us now!” <sup>35</sup> Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come/Go out from this man!”<sup>15</sup> The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground in the people’s midst. But, without harming the man, the evil spirit left him.

<sup>6</sup> The people were all amazed and were saying one to another, “He speaks with authority from God! When he commands evil spirits, he has power to make them obey him, so they leave/go out from people!” <sup>37</sup> The people were telling everyone in every village in the surrounding region what Jesus had done.

<sup>38</sup> Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, and entered Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and his family asked Jesus *to heal her*. <sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and commanded the fever to leave her. At once she became well! She got up and served them *some food*. <sup>40</sup> When the sun was setting, *the Sabbath Day rule/restriction on travel ended*. So, many people, whose friends or relatives were sick with various diseases, brought them to Jesus. He put his hands on each one and healed them all.

<sup>41</sup> *Jesus also was expelling demons* from many people. As some demons left people, they shouted to Jesus, “You are God’s Son!” But he rebuked those demons and would not allow them to speak *about him*, because they knew that he was the Messiah, *and he did not want deceitful demons to tell/witness who he was*.

<sup>42</sup> Early next morning, Jesus left Simon’s house, and went to an uninhabited/quiet place<sup>16</sup> to pray. Many people searched for him, and when they found him they kept urging/begging him not to leave them. <sup>43</sup> But Jesus said to them, “I must tell people in other towns also the good message about how God wants to rule *as king over* their lives, because that is what God sent me to do.” <sup>44</sup> So he kept *traveling and preaching* in the synagogues in *other* towns in Judea province.

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<sup>13</sup> OR he spoke as if he was God. OR he spoke as how God would speak. ‘With authority’ means more than a confident manner, or even failing to cite rabbinical opinion. When God speaks, everyone trembles.)

<sup>14</sup> OR who was controlled by. Use your language’s usual expression for this.

<sup>15</sup> OR Leave. OR Release.

<sup>16</sup> OR a place where no people were staying.