

## **The Temptation of Jesus**

Luke 4:1-15

by Don Falkos

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After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him out into the wilderness where he was tempted by the Adversary. For forty days Jesus ate nothing and was very hungry.

The Adversary said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus responded by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy. "It takes more than bread to really live."

The Adversary showed Jesus, in an instant, all the nations of the earth and said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. I have the authority to give it to anyone I choose. Just worship me, and it will all be yours."

Jesus refused, again quoting from the book of Deuteronomy. "Worship only God; serve only God."

Finally, the Adversary took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand at the highest point on top of the Temple. It was a long way down. Then the Adversary said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, jump! Won't God tell the angels to take care of you and protect you? They'll catch you. You won't be hurt. You won't even stub your toe on a stone. That's what the scriptures say."

Jesus replied, "The scriptures also say not to put God to the test."

Then the Adversary left Jesus, but was always on the lookout for another opportunity.

Jesus went back to Galilee filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. News of his return spread throughout the countryside. Jesus taught in the synagogues, and everyone was pleased with him.