

What's inside?

What's inside this box?

- You can't touch it
- You can't open it or damage it?
- You can damage it

How do we know what's inside a person?

What's really inside you and me?

How does what's inside us grow in good ways?

1

What's inside?

“Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139:23-24

2



What's inside?

Luke 4:1-13

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3

Just before this story...

John the Baptist was teaching
 “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”
 Jesus (**God the Son**) was baptized to join with humanity,
 even though He did not need to repent

God the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus

God the Father said, “You are my Son, whom I love;
 with you I am well pleased.”

A beautiful expression of the **Trinity**
 in fellowship and ministry together

But then...

repent = change to match God's ways
 Trinity = 1 God in 3 persons

4

Luke 4:1-2a

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

5

Luke 4:2b-4

He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

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

Jesus answered, “**It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’**” *Deuteronomy 8:3*

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Luke 4:5-8

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

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. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”** *Deuteronomy 6:13*

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Luke 4:9-12

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. **For it is written:**

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Psalm 90:11-12

Jesus answered, **“It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”** *Deuteronomy 6:16*

8

Luke 4:13

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

9

Luke 4:1-2a

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Luke 4:1-13bib.ly/Lu4.NIV

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

- Luke's emphasis
 - Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit"
 - Perfectly led by the Spirit
 - Perfectly following the Spirit
 - Fully empowered by the Spirit
 - The devil: the foremost opponent of God
 - This testing was God's plan for Jesus
 - To prove Jesus' perfect obedience
 - Real temptations: the strongest the devil could give
 - He defeated them all
 - To form Jesus for ministry

2b-4

5-8

9-12

13

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Son though he was, **[Jesus] learned obedience from what he suffered** and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and **was designated by God to be high priest** in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:8-10

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Luke 4:1-13bib.ly/Lu4.NIV

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

- Tested for all 40 days, not just on day 40
- In the wilderness, like Israel

2b-4

5-8

9-12

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13

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way
in the wilderness these forty years,
 to humble and test you in order
to know what was in your heart,
 whether or not you would keep his commands.

Deuteronomy 8:2

The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness
 forty years until all the men who were
 of military age when they left Egypt had died,
 since **they had not obeyed the Lord.**

Joshua 5:6

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Luke 4:1-13bib.ly/Lu4.NIV

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

- Testing reveals what is hidden inside
- Adam & Eve failed such an easy test!
- Israel failed 10 times (at least) in the wilderness
- Jesus was found to be perfectly holy inside
- Testing does that for us too
 - When our needs or desires aren't met
 - When people disappoint us or frustrate us
 - When we disappoint or frustrate ourselves
 - When God disappoints our desires or hopes

2b-4

5-8

9-12

13

15

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1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1:

- Pattern of temptations:

| Setup | Devil's words | Jesus' words | Temptation | Idea |
|-------|---------------|--------------|------------|------|
| | | | | |

5-8

9-12

13

17

| Setup | Devil's words | Jesus' words | Temptation | Idea |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 40 days without food | Turn this stone into bread to meet a real need | Man doesn't live by bread alone | God is not being good to you by denying your needs, especially as His Son! | Obedience to God is more essential than food |

The good that God gives is far deeper than all other needs and desires

- We are also tempted to doubt God's goodness when good is denied

Yet God still cares for the whole of our humanity:

"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" *Matthew 6:30*

When God withholds good from us, it is for a greater good purpose

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Luke 4:1-13

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: Use power to satisfy real hunger
even when God says 'No' for now

5-8

9-12

13

19

Luke 4:5-8

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

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. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

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1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: Use power to satisfy real hunger

5-8 Temptation 2:

- Jesus will one day have what the devil offered to give
“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth” *Philippians 2:10*
- God’s path was through horrible sacrifice & death
- Jesus’ answer implies that the devil was not
demanding exclusive worship
- 9-12 • But God does demand exclusive worship
- 13 • Like marriage

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| Setup | Devil 's words | Jesus ' words | Temptation | Idea |
|--|---|------------------|---|--|
| Devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world | Worship me, and I'll give you all this authority and splendor | Worship God only | There is an easier path to good than God offers | Worship and serve only God (who has final authority) |
| <p>Worship/service: something I give (my sacrifice) to someone or something (my god/idol) whom I hope will give me something in return (the blessing)</p> <p>Sacrifice: hard work, bribe, attitude, money, loyalty, ...</p> <p>God or idol: society, family, employer, people in power, country, ...</p> <p>Blessing: security, love, identity, honor, pleasure, control, ...</p> <p>Jesus: God is the only one who can give what truly matters, so it is wrong & foolish to worship/serve anyone or anything else</p> | | | | |

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Luke 4:1-13

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: Use power to satisfy real hunger

5-8 Temptation 2: Take an easier path to the good we want than the path God calls us to take

9-12

13

23

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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. **For it is written:**

**“He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”**

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1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: use power to satisfy real hunger

5-8 Temptation 2: take an easier path to the good we want

9-12 Temptation 3:

- The devil is 'crafty' (like the serpent in Eden)
 - Uses Scripture
 - like Scripture was used to defend slavery
 - Uses the temple
 - as the place of God's protection
- He tempts Jesus to test God

13

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| Setup | Devil's words | Jesus' words | Temptation | Idea |
|--|--|----------------|--|---|
| Devil took him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem | Throw yourself down and have God rescue you as He 'promised' | Don't test God | God needs to be pushed to provide the help He promised | God's protection comes through trusting Him, not by testing Him |

Psalm 91: "Whoever **dwells in the shelter** of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

God usually delivers us **THROUGH** trouble, rather than **FROM** it

Israel gave in to this temptation, demanding that God meet their needs in **THEIR** way and in **THEIR** timing, over and over again

"Abba, Father," Jesus said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will.**" *Mark 14:36*

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Luke 4:1-13

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: Use power to satisfy real hunger

5-8 Temptation 2: Take an easier path to a good result

9-12 Temptation 3: God needs to be pushed
to be good to us

13

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Luke 4:13

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

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Luke 4:1-13

1-2a Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into intense testing

2b-4 Temptation 1: use power to satisfy real hunger

5-8 Temptation 2: take an easier path to a good result

9-12 Temptation 3: God needs to be pushed to provide

13 Jesus passed every test

- The devil tried everything against Jesus
- “Opportune time” includes:
 - Peter telling Jesus to take an easier path
 - In the garden of Gethsemane, when He experienced the full extent of this testing to take an easier path than the path God commanded

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The Big Idea

**Jesus was proven victorious
by being tempted to the extreme
in every way we are
without any flaw being found**

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We try to determine what's inside people by looking at their outside:

- Their labels
- What they tell us
- What others tell us
- What we see them do

God can see people's hearts.

We can't even see our own hearts very well!

Our insides are often made clearest to us (and others) when we are tested

- Blaming the circumstances is like blaming the thermometer that says we have a fever

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Our insides are often made clearest to us (and others) when we are tested

- Our anger and impatience
- Our greed and envy
- Our pride
- Our selfishness and selfish ambition
- Our desire to be served rather than to serve
- Our need to be in control
- Our inability to listen to or see others
- Our belief that we know best
- Our need for people's approval
- Our desire for what is not ours to have
- Our fear about the future

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The Big Idea

**Jesus was proven victorious
by being tempted to the extreme
in every way we are
without any flaw being found**

We are repeatedly proven to be broken inside

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Application

- **Rejoice in our great Hero!**
 - Jesus faced temptations to the extreme
 - He never failed
 - Every other human does
 - His victory is our victory for all who put their faith in Him
 - Once for all
 - Day by day
 - He can sympathize with our struggles

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught **off-guard** by trials of many kinds
 - “Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” *1 Peter 4:12*
 - More intense trials may come to more mature people
 - The devil is very crafty
 - Using Scripture and ministry
 - At our weakness
 - At our strength

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Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the **testing of your faith produces perseverance**. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything**.

James 1:2-4

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught off-guard by trials of many kinds
 - God may intentionally lead us into testing
 - Just like He did with Jesus
 - Help us realize our weakness and need for grace
 - Demonstrate God's work in us, to us or to others
 - Cause us to grow
 - Tempted to think we would be a better god than God!
 - We think: He isn't being good to us
 - We think: There are easier paths to good than God offers
 - We think: He needs to be forced to give us the help we need
 - Submit to God, whose goodness is deeper than we can know

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught off-guard by trials of many kinds
- Enter testing in God's strength
 - As Jesus did, living by the Word of God (the Bible)
 - Be strong “in the Lord and in his mighty power”

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Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore **put on the full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

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Stand firm then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of **righteousness** in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the **word of God**.

And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on **praying for all the Lord's people**. *Ephesians 6:10-18*

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught off-guard by trials of many kinds
- Enter testing in God's strength
 - As Jesus did, living by the Word of God (the Bible)
 - Be strong “in the Lord and in his mighty power”
 - **How incredibly foolish to enter a battle without being prepared!**

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught off-guard by trials of many kinds
- Enter testing in God's strength
- When we fail...
 - We will fail, over and over
 - “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But **I have prayed for you**, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And **when you have turned back**, strengthen your brothers.” *Luke 22:31-32*
 - Find forgiveness, restoration, and transformation in our perfect high priest

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Application

- Rejoice in our great Hero!
- Don't be caught off-guard by trials of many kinds
- Enter testing in God's strength
- When we fail, return to our Savior
for forgiveness, restoration, and transformation

43

The Big Idea

**Jesus was proven victorious
by being tempted to the extreme
in every way we are
without any flaw being found**

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What's really inside you and me?

- The labels we put on ourselves mean little
- The labels others put on us mean little
- Where have you been tested in recent days?
- What did you find?

God in His kindness leads us into testing...

- To reveal to us who we are
 - To humble us
 - So we turn to our perfect High Priest to receive forgiveness, restoration, and transformation
- To produce perseverance and maturity
 - Making us more like Christ

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Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of many kinds, because
you know that the testing of your faith produces
perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so
that you may be mature and complete, not lacking
anything.

James 1:2-4

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