

*23When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years old, being, as was commonly held, the son of Joseph, Luke 3:23*

Before we go on to chapter 4 of Luke I wanted us to look at this statement by Luke *as was commonly held, the son of Joseph*. This is important because there are two genealogies given in the Gospels, one in Matthew and one here in Luke.

*One common explanation for the divergence is that Matthew is recording the actual legal genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, according to Jewish custom, whereas Luke, writing for a Gentile audience, gives the actual biological genealogy of Jesus through Mary. Wiki*

We know that Wikipedia is many times not to be trusted but in this case it seems to give a very plausible explanation for the two accounts, *the actual legal genealogy of Jesus through Joseph and the actual biological genealogy of Jesus through Mary*. Luke's account starts with Joseph (*commonly held, the son of Joseph*) and goes backward through David's son Nathan, *the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse* Luke takes us all the way back to Adam and was written *for a Gentile audience*. Matthew's account, was written from a Jewish perspective. *The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew's lineage begins with Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, Jesse fathered David the king. David fathered Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Matt 1:6*

Why two accounts? One explanation may be that one is Joseph's lineage, Jesus legal lineage. The other Jesus lineage through Mary since Jesus true father was God. Jeremiah prophesied that Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin would have no heir rule Judah, prophecy fulfilled.

*King Jehoiakim of Judah: He will have no heirs to sit on the throne of David. Jer 36:30 Jehoiachin was childless. He is a failure, for none of his children will succeed him on the throne of David to rule over Judah. Jer 22:30*

*This proposal is sometimes linked to the judgment pronounced against the line of Solomon by Jeremiah, who prophesied that no descendant of Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36:30) or his son Jechoniah (Jeremiah 22:24–30) would sit on the throne of David. Jesus avoided this judgment because he was the legal descendant—i.e. through Mary—rather than the physical descendant of David—through Joseph. zondervanacademic.com*

We now embark on the time of Jesus ministry, Jesus was born among many signs and prophetic words of prophets and angels. Then John the Baptist began in the wilderness preparing the way. John was busy baptizing when Jesus came and was also baptized. *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."* Luke 3:21,22 Jesus was baptized and then we see the whole of the Trinity, Father (*You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased*), Son and Holy Spirit (*Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him*). Jesus Was beginning His earthly ministry with the blessing of both the Father and the Spirit.

*33He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.(Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. NLT) 34For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him (God gives him the Spirit without limit). 35The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:33-36*

All that Luke has described to this point proclaims, Jesus is the Messiah, the many signs. As John wrote, *Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. NLT* As Paul declared in the Book of Acts, *2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," Act 17:2,3* All that we have look at so far declares, *Jesus is the Messiah.* Luke has set the table and then he writes, *When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years old, being, as was commonly held, the son of Joseph, Luke 3:23*

Jesus now begins His ministry. But He doesn't go to Jerusalem or even to His home region of Capernaum, He begins His ministry in the wilderness. As Moses and the children of Israel were forty years in the wilderness, Jesus began His ministry away from people, alone and isolated.

*1Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. Luke 4:1,2*

Jesus began His ministry, *being filled with the Holy Spirit* but also *led by the Spirit into the wilderness*. Imagine being filled with the Spirit God gives him the Spirit without limit John 3:34 and then being put on the shelf. Think of Moses, called of God to redeem His people, and then fleeing to the wilderness, forgotten for forty years. *Filled with the Spirit* but *led into the wilderness*. If God did this with Jesus might we consider the very ways that God leads us, our wilderness experiences, our time of testing, are most likely the leading of God. The plans of God often lead us through trials, God shapes his servants through trials. Think about the stories from the Bible of people God used. He entrusted Job, Joseph, Daniel, Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul and many others with major trials. Jesus began His ministry with forty days of trial, *the Spirit* led Jesus *into the wilderness*, to be *tempted by the devil*. Should we as Christians rebuke every trial we have and insist that it be removed in the name of Jesus or should we instead ask for the power that we can endure it. When tempted by the devil Jesus put up a strong defense. And so must we. Paul wrote the Corinthians,

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 1 Cor 10:13*

*we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 2 Thes 1:4*

*2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:2-4*

Jesus was *filled with the Holy Spirit* and He was *led by the Spirit into the wilderness*. And being in the desert wasn't bad enough there He was *tempted for forty days by the devil*. As believers when we *push into God* we have no guarantee our lives will get easier. God may have wildernesses and times of trials and tempting (*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13*)

Scripture many times states *God's kingdom is not of this world*, it is not like this world, it is wholly and entirely other. God's values and morals are structured to function by differently. Jesus stated, *My kingdom is not of this world John 18:36*, His kingdom is not of this world but is truly the Kingdom of God. As believers, those called to be members of that eternal kingdom. We who pray *Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done*, are in the process of being

transformed, changed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. We are bond servants of the Most High God and we to live as Christ in the world, *to live is Christ*

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal 2:20*

Christ modeled this life, He was willing to be lead by the Spirit and resist the temptations of the devil. As Christians we are to live by the Spirits power. Paul writes to the Galatians, *Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Gal 5:16* We are to practice living holy lives, *20If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles (basic principles) of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees (laws) "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" Col 2:20,21* We aren't to follow the Jews in legalistic righteousness, believing our works save us but we are to *walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Gal 5:16* Jesus was *led by the Spirit into the wilderness. We are told He learned obedience from the things He suffered. Heb 5:8* We come as believers *to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.* The author of born again living.

*18For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words, which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. 20For they could not cope with the command, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." 22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. Heb 12:18-24*

*8"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

We are to follow Jesus as the disciples did, to pray, *Thy Kingdom come.* To allow God to work personally in our lives to make us new creations, born again people who are learning to live lives dependant on God. As Paul writes, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20* Lives that are juxtaposed to the non-believers around us. *Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. James 4:4* Christ learned obedience by what he suffered *Heb 5:8* In fact He was *made perfect through suffering Heb 2:10*

*God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. Heb 2:10*

It was fitting for that the *captain of our salvation* began His ministry alone in the desert fasting (resisting His flesh) and being tempted to fulfill His flesh by the devil. May we learn as Christians to lead be led by the Spirit, will to face our trials, to resist the devil and see him flee.

*Submit (humble) yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*