

## 'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

### *(The Life of Christ Series)*

#### Studies in Luke's Gospel

#### The Other 'Fisher of Men'

Jesus assured His disciples: **"Follow Me and I will make you to become fishers of men."** Except for Judas Iscariot, it did happen, they all became soul-winners for Christ, leading many to faith in Him as Savior and Lord. And ever since, all who truly know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior also follow Him and end up becoming *fishers of men* throughout their lives on earth.

But, as you know, Christ's archenemy, the devil, loves to distort everything Jesus said and tries to use every trick he can against Christ, to deceive and destroy as many as possible. Satan is *the other fisher of men* trolling the restless seas for lost souls, luring them to himself with the bait of selfishness and sin (**1 John 5:19**). Like the fish in the sea, unsaved people can't see who is in the boat above controlling that hooked line with the tasty looking bait or shiny lure. Like the evil *destroyer of men* he is, the enemy has many different sorts of lures and baits he and his demonic angels expertly cast into the troubled waters of life (**2 Corinthians 3:11**).

The devil and his demonic poachers especially love to cast irresistibly lustful bait in front of careless, foolish, gullible believers, so easily seduced away from the calm waters of a contented Christian life (**2 Corinthians 11:3**). Without being obsessed with terror about it, all wise believers need to be aware that the devil is always *chumming the waters* of life with sinful dainties with which to draw them away from God's peaceful, pure, living waters, out to the dark and dangerous depths where he fishes for men (*and women of God*) (**Ephesians 6:12-13**).

The three categories of bait Satan uses are *the world* (*the secular ways and fashions of society*), *the flesh* (*sensuous physical passions that can't be fulfilled righteously*) and *the devil* himself (*rebellion, selfishness, lying and pride*) (**1 John 2:15-17**). As long as Christians stay away from these *fishing grounds* of the devil, they are safe and sound with the Savior (**James 4:7-10**).

However, if God's people foolishly swim to the perimeter of the family of faith, they are susceptible to the *lion (fish)* predator of our soul (**1 Peter 5:8**). If Satan fails to keep you from trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, he will relentlessly seek to *catch* and *ensnare* you in the sinful traps of this world to ruin you and render you ineffective for the Lord in this life (**2 Timothy 2:26**).

Of course, someone who truly has been *captured by the grace of God in Christ* keeps as far away as he or she can from the enemy and his *fishing holes* of disobedience. Besides that, we who love the Lord aren't *fish* anymore – we have been transformed into *His sheep*. Sheep belong in flocks with the Good Shepherd, not floundering in the *troubled waters* of this life, with the yet unsaved *fish of the sea*. Sheep don't swim very well, so it's best to stay out of all *worldly waters* except to *go fishing* with Jesus, witnessing and leading others to salvation. Plus, *sheep* don't eat fish bait. In fact, they aren't even enticed by it – they graze in green pastures and eat the spiritual *sheep food* of the Word of God (**1 Peter 2:2-3**). No need to worry about *the other fisher of men* when you're following Jesus, the true *fisher of men* Who has now become the *Good Shepherd of sheep*. **PtL**

## **Dealing with the Devil**

*(The 40-day wilderness temptations of Jesus)*

**Luke 4:1-13**

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

**4:1-2**

*(also Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13)*

### **Temptation #1: Physical Gratification**

*(Love of self – pleasure seeking)*

*“And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.’”*

**4:3-4**

### **Temptation #2: Personal Exaltation**

*(Love of this world – power seeking)*

*“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”*

**4:5-8**

### **Temptation #3: Public Acclamation**

*(Love of recognition – pride seeking)*

*“Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: “He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you,’ and ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’”*

**4:9-12**

*“...when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”*

*(see also Matthew 4:11 & Mark 1:13)*

**4:13**