Luke 4:13

“Triple Assault!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. **Honor Life** - Sanctity of Human Life week.
       1.1.1. There have been at least **43 million babies lost** since Roe v. Wade was decided on Jan.22, 1973. [33 years]
       1.1.2. Prayer: The **laws** of our land; babies whose lives hang in the balance as we speak; mothers who have had abortions [seek & accept God’s forgiveness]; that our society wouldn’t pass laws to **abort our elderly**!
           1.1.2.1. Who defines: “Quality of Life”? - Who is ‘Wanted”? (only U)

2. **TRIPLE ASSAULT! (1-13)**
   2.1. **Intro Story** – The year? 1974; The place? Trumball St., Whittier Ca.; Location? Empty lot across from my house(old lemon grove); The Event? A “**Lemon War**”!
       2.1.1. A 3-direction attack on Nick D. {Frank on left - Me on right.
           My 1st throw, way up in the air. Nicks response [just as planned] trash can lid [his shield] straight above his head. 2nd throw Frank from left. 3rd throw me from the right} [unfortunately, I hit him right in the eye]
       2.1.2. Most assaults come from more than 1 direction – as we have in our story this morning. A triple attack on the Son of God!
           2.1.2.1. But unlike Nick, Jesus was able to block all 3!!!

2.2. **TEMPTATION #1 – PHYSICAL TEMPTATIONS! (1-4)**

2.3. Q: How would you like to know the secret of Victory over temptations?
   2.3.1. Temptation/Testing = “is a difficult situation, a pressure that brings a reaction through which the character or commitment of a believer is demonstrated.” [The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words; pg.593]

2.3.2. God permits such situations to prove & improve our faith.
       2.3.2.1. The evil is not in the situations God permits, but in responding sinfully to them.

2.3.3. Temptations are not designed to trap, but to approve us.
       2.3.3.1. God even provides a back door to every temptation so we might overcome it!
       2.3.3.2. 1 Cor.10:13 “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.”
2.4. **Q:** Why did temptations/testing’s come **Jesus** way?

2.4.1. **Not to** determine His character or ability.

2.4.2. **Not to** give Satan a chance to defeat Him.

2.4.3. **But so** He could **personally experience** what we go through & so be prepared to assist us.

2.4.4. **So we could know how to overcome** the evil one by means of the Spirit of God & the Word of God.

2.4.4.1. The 1st **Adam** was tested in a beautiful garden & failed, but the last **Adam** was victorious in a terrible wilderness/desert. ¹

2.4.4.2. **Explain Desert** = not wilderness like we might picture it.

2.4.5. Before offering a **new life** to others, He proved in a **personal demonstration** that a **new life was possible!**

2.4.5.1. He showed His own **freedom from** the inadequacies & the sin which trap you & me.

2.4.5.2. Jesus shows freedom is possible & gives each of us hope!

2.5. **Q:** When might temptations come?

2.6. When you’re **filled with** the Holy Spirit!

2.6.1. If I started a story, “I was walking in the Spirit the other day when…” You probably wouldn’t expect me to say, “and I was radically attacked spiritually!”

2.6.2. Often the strongest force of temptation comes when one is **closest** to God!

2.6.3. The Devil even caused 1 disciple to say he didn’t even know Christ.

2.7. Also we notice temptations come when we are **alone!**

2.7.1. I was walking in the moonlight on the property in Belize, & was just overcome with the thought: “Here I am in a Rain Forest paradise. All alone. Completely isolated from the world. And yet even at that moment, still having to battle the temptations of my mind.”

2.8. **Being filled…He was being tested – Why?** To **prepare us** for the conflict. To **give us strength** proportioned to our need!

2.8.1. It’s not a sin to be **tempted;** but it is a sin to **yield.**

2.9. Jesus shows us you can be filled w/the Spirit & obedient to God’s will & still experience temptations/testing’s/ & trials.

2.9.1. **Jesus can identify w/you** in your temptations & can help you win the **victory!**

2.9.2. **Heb.2:18** “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.
2.10. **THE TEST!** – To use His power to meet physical needs??????????

2.10.1. Fast for 40 days, now what might be the 1st test...hmmm!

2.10.1.1. A hard test for the 30 year old Nazarene.

2.10.1.2. He ate nothing for 40 days & *(another biblical “understatement”)*

"was hungry" *(in case you think He didn't have human hunger pains!)*

2.10.1.3. He was physically drained of the natural resources inherent in our bodies.

2.10.2. Really not “if” but *“since You are the Son of God, act like God & command these stones be made bread.”*

2.10.3. "It was a test to put His immediate physical needs ahead of eternal purposes."

2.10.3.1. In selecting this verse He places the emphasis on “man”!

2.10.3.2. Thus, Jesus didn’t meet the testing’s of Satan in His deity; Jesus met each test in his human nature as a true man.

2.10.3.3. Again, in this we find hope!

2.10.3.4. If He won victory using His divine nature, He would have only proved that God is greater than Satan!

2.10.3.5. Jesus was born into our world to live as a human being, & to be hungry & tired, misunderstood & hurt as we all have been

2.10.3.6. He used the resources available to every believer!

2.11. **THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!**

2.11.1. Armored with *the sword of the Spirit* for His battle w/the Devil Jesus is able to parry each thrust of Satan’s *plastic child’s sword*, with the *steel-bladed sword of Gods Word*!

2.11.1.1. We also can picture darkness coming after light!!

2.11.2. **Q: How did Jesus use the Scripture?**

2.11.2.1. *Not like* the Hindu prayer wheels, saying words over & over again by rote.

2.11.2.2. *There is nothing magical about the words of Scripture.*

2.11.3. **Jesus is saying, “here is a principle to live by...& I will live by it!”**

2.11.3.1. God’s word is given to be *lived*.

2.11.3.2. Here is where Jesus found victory, & in doing God’s word is where we’ll find ours also!

2.11.4. The **physical** is one avenue of temptation for all of us.

2.11.4.1. Some are ruled by gluttony, others by sexual appetites.

2.11.5. **Yes we all have physical needs & it is alright to satisfy them [biblically]**

2.11.5.1. **BUT, we are more than our bodies!!!**

2.11.6. Don’t let **physical needs & urges** dominate your life, choose to live by the **Word** of God. *[or to do the will of God]*

2.11.6.1. **Q: Which physical temptation are you struggling with?**
2.11.6.2. Q: What specific Scripture can you store up in your heart, that directly applies to your temptation?  
2.11.6.2.1. Ps. 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”  
2.11.6.3. Q: What have you been reminded of this morning that will aide you next time a physical temptation comes your way?  
2.11.6.4. Q: What steps will you need to take to make sure you are living by that scripture?

2.12. **TEMPTATION #2 – TEMPTATION TO DO GOOD!** (5-8)

2.13. Now, an attack from another direction!

2.14. **THE TEST!**  
2.14.1. To seek the power of a world ruler. (This would match popular expectations about the Messiah)  
2.14.2. Satan asked for the worship that belongs only to God, offering all the world’s kingdoms in return.  
2.14.2.1. It was an opportunity for Jesus to escape the cross!  
2.14.3. Authority over all kingdoms of this world IS Jesus’ destiny!  
2.14.3.1. Ps. 2:7,8 “The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.”  
2.14.4. Certainly what God has planned for Jesus cannot be, in itself, a bad thing – or worldly.  
2.14.4.1. It would have been a good thing for our planet for Jesus to jump in & rule the nations.  
2.14.4.2. There wouldn’t be wars & killings if Jesus was in charge. No sickness or cancer. No crime, or discrimination, or injustice!  
2.14.5. So this was a “good” temptation...or better yet, a temptation to do good...but not accept God’s “best”!  
2.14.5.1. Some of the most powerful temptations are those that involve good things!

2.15. **All will be yours?** – But in Jesus Christ we already have all things!  
2.15.1. 1 Cor. 3:21-23 “Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

2.16. **THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!**  
2.16.1. Don’t fall for the Good; determine to do God’s Will alone!
2.16.2. Choosing God’s will was costly for Jesus. It cost Him His life, but His reward? “The nations” (folks from all nations, tribes, peoples, & tongues)!

2.16.3. Like Jesus, determine to do the right thing, determining that in every situation you will worship God, & Him only you will serve!

2.17. TEMPTATION #3 – TEMPTATION TO DOUBT GOD! (9-13)

2.18. This “if” implies doubt.

2.19. THE TEST!

2.19.1. Perform a dazzling miracle at the Temple site, as many people are anxiously awaiting a Messiah who would perform spectacular signs.

2.19.1.1. He tells Jesus to jump, & backs it with an “edited” quotation from Psalm 91:11,12.

2.19.2. How long will you wait until you begin to wonder, “Did God really lead me here, or was it my imagination?”

2.19.3. How long before you yearn for some proof that God has been directing you & is still w/you?

2.19.4. The passage implies, “Why not settle it!” – Prove to yourself the relationship you claim, once & for all!

2.19.4.1. Look at the passage he quoted. Yes it’s from Deut.6:16 (read) but it looks back even farther to Ex.17:7 (read).

2.19.4.2. They were given demonstration after demonstration of God’s power. They run out of water & cry again, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

2.19.4.3. In questioning God’s presence & His love, they “put God to the test!”

2.19.5. Come on Jesus, make God prove Himself! – Jesus wouldn’t.

2.20. THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!

2.20.1. Relationship with God must always rest on faith, rest on His Faithfulness, & on Confidence in God’s Trustworthiness.

2.20.2. How quick you & I are, when troubles & pressures come, to begin to doubt God & to question His love!

2.20.2.1. Is God still here? Did I make a mistake?

2.20.3. When we are under these pressures we need to remember the principles that Jesus Himself applied. We don’t need proof. We can trust God. We are not to test Him.

2.21. Jesus did not use His divine powers to win the victory; He used the same spiritual weapons that any of us can use, if we will yield to him!