



DECEMBER 28
Jesus, Son of God,
Son of Man
Luke 4:1-12
Earl F. Palmer

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Earl F. Palmer, Pastor Emeritus

Review: Discuss how the Advent series of sermons from John's Gospel helped you prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Introduction: This week we take time to examine the early witnesses of Jesus' life on earth. Our text focuses on how the devil (*diabolos*) is actually a witness of the person, position, and character of Jesus.

Pray: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help us to listen to those who are your witnesses. Amen.

Read: Luke 4:1-12

Discussion:

1. Who has given witness to you about Jesus?
2. The first temptation described in our text is to tell a stone to become bread. Jesus' hunger is a sign of His humanity.

What is the meaning contained in Jesus' response? (Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

Why is it important that Jesus is fully human?

3. Next the devil attempts to coerce Jesus. Jesus does not address the issue of whether the devil has the authority he is claiming but responds by quoting Deuteronomy 6.

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-15. Discuss the significance of Jesus' response in Luke 4:8.

How does this help you understand what some scholars refer to as the focal point of the Old Testament Documents, Deuteronomy 6:4-5? "*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*"

Why is it important that Jesus is not coerced?

4. Continuing in Luke 4, the devil now quotes scripture itself, Psalm 91:11-12, to tempt Jesus. How does Jesus correct the misuse of scripture? (Read Deuteronomy 6:16 ff)

Why is it important that Jesus does not avoid death?

Application: How do your life and words witness to the truth of who Jesus is? Be conscious of your speech and actions this week as you witness to those around you.

Pray: Lord God, thank you for the gift of your Son. May our lives be a witness to the grace we have received. Amen.