

“Terror Alert?”

Luke 4:1-2

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- Paris, San Bernardino, Brussels attacks
- Spiritual terrorism attacks through temptation
- Certain times and circumstances more susceptible to attacks

Terror Alert?

A. In the midst of a “Spiritual High”-- Luke 4:1

B. When we are being “led by the Spirit”-- Luke 4:1

1. How can we be led by the Spirit into temptation?
2. Two-sided Nature of Temptation
 - a. Satan-- solicitation for evil
 - b. God-- to prove or improve our faith and character

C. “In the wilderness” -- that is, when alone.-- Luke 4:1

1. Traditional location of the wilderness
2. God testing of the nation of Israel in the wilderness—Deut. 8:2
3. Mistakenly think that isolation is the answer to temptation.
4. God’s presence assures that we are never alone.
5. God sees what we do in secret.

D. “Under a long siege”-- Luke 4:2

1. Temptation lasted 40 days.
2. Significance of the 40 days?
3. The Effects of a long siege-- wear down our resistance to temptation
4. Illustration: Job

E. In the “presence of bad dudes” -- Luke 4:2

1. The Devil as the “Ultimate bad dude”
 - a. His fall from his exalted position—Ezek. 28 and Isa 14
 - b. His demonic empire-- Ephesians 6:12
2. Why does the devil attempt the impossible in tempting Jesus?
 - a. Pride blinds him to reality.
 - b. His threshold of success was low in comparison to the stakes which were extremely high.
3. “*Evil company corrupts good habits.*”
 - a. Individually-- Proverbs 13:20
 - b. Culturally-- 2 Peter 2:7-8