

The Gospel of Luke Jesus Begins to Heal

Interpreting the Text:

1. Why is it so important to Luke to begin Jesus' story in John the Baptist's preaching?
2. Satan tempts Jesus in three different ways. In each one, Jesus overcomes the temptation. What do we learn about Jesus' abilities, identity, and mission from his defeat of Satan in each of these ways?
3. What is the relationship between Jesus' sermon in Luke 4 and Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1? How does Luke use these two moments to clarify Jesus' mission?

Applying the Text:

1. At the end of John the Baptist's stringent criticisms and demands, Luke says: "So, with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people." What is "good" about John's teachings as followers today?
2. Luke had no doubt that Satan was a spiritual being running something like a guerilla campaign against God. How do you understand the presence and power of evil in the world today?
3. In Luke 5, Jesus implies that there is a strong connection between forgiveness and healing. In what ways do your own life and experiences confirm or challenge that?