

Drawn In: Hover - Luke 4:1-13

Norwalk Christian Church, February 4, 2019, Drawn In Series

As a child who grew up in the 80's and 90's, one of the great movie series was...Back to the Future. For the younger kids here who haven't gotten the privilege to view these...classic?...films yet, let me give you the premise. There's a DeLorean (which was a really cool car) time machine a crazy scientist invented and this crazy doc trusted a high school student to drive this thing into the past and back to the future. (See what I did there?) There were a couple sequels also, one of which they travel into the far future. And while the movie director and set producer already knew what the past looked like, they could only use their creativity, their imaginations to envision what the future might look like. If they'd be flying cars or shoes that tie themselves. One of the great creations within the movie was...the hoverboard. Now, yes, there are hoverboards today, but not like this hoverboard. This hoverboard didn't have wheels, it actually hovered above the ground, even against the side of a wall. Never touching what it was hovering over. It was cool.

But hovering....hovering isn't always cool. If famous Norwalkians like Jason Momoa or Sara Routh were here today and I hovered around them, it would not be cool. Not for them, and really not for me either, as I'd rather interact with them, to shake their hand and not simply hover.

As a child it stressed me out every time I had a teacher walking around the room hovering overhead to see how I was doing on my work. As an adult I still don't like people hovering over me. I don't like it when someone is reading over my shoulder or invading my personal space. It's so frustrating that it makes me want to tell the other person to simply Go Away.

That frustration, that hovering, that's how Jesus is feeling today in this text. That's what he's thinking about these temptations that are hovering over him. Hungry? Just make some bread. Want power? Just tell me what I want to hear. The author and I differ on our opinion of the source of these temptations. As a pastor, believe it or not, I am just as human as you are. Meaning I have the mental capacity to form my own opinion. It doesn't mean it's right, but it does mean that's where I am right now. And one of the beautiful parts of being a Disciple (big D) is that we don't claim to have it all figured out and we can agree to disagree on the non-essentials and still come to the table together.

So, as I stated, the author and I disagree as to the source of Jesus' temptations. I believe Jesus was both fully human and fully God. But being fully human means there are doubts, there are temptations, our mind wonders. I don't believe there's a spiritual being out there intentionally deceiving humans. I believe we do that all on our own. I think that's a hard thing for people to grasp and to understand, that our human nature isn't perfect. We love that we were made in God's image. We love that God said we were very good. We don't want to admit to our imperfections and our sinful nature. We don't want

anyone to think of us as being anything other than what our culture and society thinks we should be. We don't want to believe the bad stuff comes from within us. We don't like taking or accepting the blame.

We hover over our true feelings, our internal humanity. We refuse to claim it or own it or at times even recognize it. Jesus is taking the time to get to know himself, to get to know his own humanity and the ugly truth that lies within. This humble servant whom others are following. Well, deep down, he wants to rule over people. It's why that was a temptation. Deep down, he wanted the world to know he was so much more than a mere mortal. It's why that was a temptation. Deep down, his physical human body needed to be fed. That's why it was a temptation.

Yet through this process of exploring himself, he was able to discern, from these temptations, what his calling was. Through these deep reflection times in life, we discern who we are and what we have a passion and desire for. Through these deep reflection times in life, we realize who we really are and who we are called to be. Sometimes as we figure this out and go through the discernment process, we have to get creative. Hoverboard creative. Thinking about new things. Things that do not yet exist. But we can't just hover around those ideas. We have to actually engage, to interact, to physically dive in.

We have a card ministry here, because someone had this creative vision for one even though they had never seen one before. We have ELL classes here for Samallis, because someone had this crazy creative idea to create one from scratch. We have a new boy scout group for girls meeting here. Not girl scouts, they do the same thing as boy scouts only with girls. They got creative and said, why not do this if there's a need for it. Our callings don't always fit into neat already formed boxes. And praise God they don't. Because there are a ton of ways we can better the world around us and when each of us does our part and ventures out and explores our gifts and callings in this world. We bring a piece of heaven into this world.

So venture out to explore yourself. Accept what you see and figure out how good can come of it. Then go out and do it. If you need help, if you need support, that's why we're here. You don't have to do it all by yourself. But you do need to find your passions, your callings, and bring those crazy dreams to life. Amen.