

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Lent with intent Week 1 (26th of February 2023)

Read: Matthew 4.1-11

- ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
- ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'
- ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written,
"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '
- ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
- ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
"He will command his angels concerning you",
and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '
- ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '
- ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;
- ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'
- ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him." '
- ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. If you have given or taken up something for Lent in the past, what sort of things have you given or taken up?
2. Have you made a Lenten commitment to give or take up something this year?
3. How would you describe success in today's world?
4. Is it easy to discern between good & evil, right & wrong in today's world?
5. Jesus' temptations look very similar to what the outcomes of his mission & ministry were intended to be. What does it mean for Jesus to reject the temptation of easy & pain-free results?
6. How are Jesus' temptations different from the temptations we face? In what ways can we learn from Jesus' temptations?
7. What would 'Lent with intent' look like for you this year?

Prayer

O Lord,
who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights:
give us grace to use such abstinence,
that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit,
we may ever obey your godly will
in righteousness and true holiness;
to your honour and glory,
who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.