

Year C Lent 1

Jesus Temptation ~ Our Temptation

Luke 4:1-13 Pastor DJK

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Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."'

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

****Imagine a small pocket knife**

After Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. He was there for 40 days; it says," he had nothing to eat all that time and he was hungry".

He was tired, and weak, and hungry.

The devil came and tried tempt Jesus, and threatened him with his pathetic words – like this pathetic little pocketknife.

What did Jesus say??, **"That's not a knife – This is a knife!!!, (Imagine a giant Crocodile Dundee hunting knife)**



The devil's knife has no hope against Jesus knife.

Of course, the devil used words against Jesus – tempting words, inviting words.

Words that sounded much like God's own words – similar but not the same.

- Turn these stones to bread – if you can?
- Throw your self of this building – God will protect you – won't he?

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- I'll give you everything if you worship me?

He picked on Jesus when he was hungry, and thirsty, and physically weak. Jesus said, "they aren't words – these are words: **Get away from me Satan.**" And it says quite simply – "Satan left."

Satan is nothing against God. As Luther's hymn says: "**One little word can fell him**".

"Get away from me Satan" and he's gone, powerless, crushed – his funny red tail with an arrow on the end is firmly between his legs.

- We too have those same words of Jesus.
- We have the power to make Satan tremble and walk away.
- We too can say one little word and fell him.
- We too have this knife as opposed to this knife.

So it would be nice now to say go in peace with the word of God as your sword but it doesn't seem as neat as all this.

As powerful as we are with the Holy Spirit there are places where we go – and in those places "one little word" can fell us.

One word: woman, man car, grog, drugs, money, Harley.

One of those words can make us fall like flies.

And here we are the ambassadors of Jesus Christ

- with the very mind of Jesus
- belonging to the very body of Jesus
- feed with the very body and blood of Jesus

and when the devil comes to us and speaks one pathetic word: woman, man car, grog, drug, money, Harley we turn into his puppets.

Why is it?

There is a special term for this and it's in Latin – so it must be important (they always put important things Latin)

It's being full of the Holy Spirit and full of evil at the same time - "Simul eustus es et pecata" or simultaneously just and sinful.

We are saints and sinners simultaneously.

What poor people we are?

We know deep down that one little word from the evil one can fell us.

And we also know deep down that one little word from Jesus can save us.

While we struggle every day with the devil and his wrong words at just the wrong time: woman, man car, grog, drug, money, harley we must remember

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who God says we are – **“You are mine – I am your Father – I am well pleased with you.” – that’s our baptism.**

“Get away from me Satan” – the same words Jesus used - are the privileged words he has given to us.

Get away grog. Get away woman.

Are words we have in our power.

I know what you’re thinking – “I have used those words – over and over and they don’t work” Perhaps your thinking it’s all theoretical. God’s says I am his – God says there’s power but it’s only power in theory – it’s not real.

Our problem is that we think the power is in us.

Grog, women, money, I can beat it I try hard enough.

I’m a Christian now I can do it – but let me remind us again while we are Christians and we are also sinners at the same time.

While we walk this earth one little word will always continue to bring us down.

But don’t give up – we are saint and sinners – but saint trumps sinner any day.

The good news is even though we are sinners Jesus died for us. We are made right by him. Saint trumps sinner.

Luke tells us that we don’t go to heaven by “carefully doing the right thing” but by trust in Jesus. (Luke 17)

Trust as we might Paul tells us that the good we want to do – we don’t and the evil we don’t want to do we do. (that’s true saint and sinner)

He says when he wants to do what is good, evil is right there with him.

It almost makes you think ‘what’s the use’?

It does seem there is no point of trying at times. But Paul says we have an obligation – despite our fixation on the devils little words – we have an obligation to the live by the spirit.

Despite our weakness we do have the Holy Spirit making his temple in our bodies – we do know the right way.

We know what Isaiah says: Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

There are no excuses for following Satan’s call.

There are no excuses for not following Jesus call.

You hear of these murder trials where someone please insanity – I heard a voice tell me to do it. IT’s a nonsense – we all have those little voices – one whispering evil – on whispering good – do this – don’t do that.

Jesus was tempted 3 times in Luke’s account – he responded with God’s word and promises each time.

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And “the devil left him”.

We know we have the same words and promises Jesus has – we need to exercise our right to use them – often.

Let’s not forget that Jesus was human – he wasn’t special when it comes to temptation.

He was tempted in every way as we are: He was tempted by: men, women, grog, drugs, money, Harleys and everything else.

To save himself he turned to God’s word and his baptism: **“you are my son - I am you father – I am well pleased with you”**.

Funny in Lent some people try to deny themselves, no cake, no TV, no chocolate or alcohol – it’s in these times we are tempted more.

This lent turn to Jesus and his power.

- Know that his death on the cross means you are forgiven.
- Know that when God looks at you he will say; You are my son or daughter I am your father – I am well pleased with you.

Jesus used words against the devil – and one little word can send him packing. Don’t plead insanity – the voice in your head is normal – our response is to reject, deny, denounce the voice of the evil one.

Be creative – it is well known Jesus throw an ink well at the devil, and he was famous for releasing bad air (Farting) with a smile and a lot of contempt.

Resisting temptation is much easier than we think – a simple no is all; that is required – but things we don’t want say no – is that right.

At the end of the day we have our Lord tempted in every way for us – who said no for us – who died to forgive us when we say yes instead of no.

Have you ever thought of robbing the Devil?

You see you can turn temptation into a blessing because it does reveal your weaknesses – the devil always goes for the weak spot.

If your weaknesses are revealed by the Devil rob him – take your weaknesses to the Lord in prayer.

Do not be at all surprised, if you a child of God are tempted at every single step of your life journey, and don’t be surprised if you are tempted what seems beyond endurance.

Remember this promise you will not be tempted beyond what you are able to bear, and with every temptation there will be a way out.

In other words – we can turn the world upside down: Temptation exercises our faith and teaches us to pray – just like Jesus. Amen.