

Weekly Theme



W/C 6th March 2017

"Temptation"

Matthew 4: 1-11

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted for forty days and nights. After this, he was very hungry. The devil came to Jesus to tempt him, saying, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person lives not on bread alone, but by everything God says.'"

Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place of the Temple. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, jump down, because it is written in the Scriptures:

'He has put his angels in charge of you.

They will catch you in their hands so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.'"

Jesus answered him, "It also says in the Scriptures, "Do not test the Lord your God."

Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendour. The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."

Jesus said to the devil, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

So the devil left Jesus, and angels came and took care of him.

Everyone, in the world today is tempted, it is as much a part of being human as eating or sleeping. In our Gospel this week we hear about Jesus being tempted in the desert by the Devil.

The devil wanted Jesus to trust in his power, rather than that of his Father. But Jesus resists everything that the Devil tries to tempt him with. He proves that good is a stronger force than evil.

And like Jesus, we can fight the temptation to be bought by the world. There are many people who have sold their souls for wealth and power. The Devil tempts us to join those who do evil, who turn off their consciences and reap wealth beyond our imaginations from the drug industry for example. There is a lot of money to be made by cheating our way to the top of the business world, but we refuse to sell our souls to the Devil. As Christians we live for God and not for ourselves.

At the end of the Gospel, Satan leaves Jesus, and the angels came to him, to look after him. There are angels sent by God into our world today, just think about the many angels you have met in your life who have helped and supported you?

**Father, your Son resisted the temptations of the devil, while fasting for forty days. May we too resist temptation more strongly during the forty days of Lent. We ask you to help us with your grace and strength.
Amen**