

LENT 1 – 1 March 2020 (Fish Hoek Methodist)

The Spirit leads Jesus into the Desert

Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 5:12-19, Isaiah 35

- “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17

Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Definition – *peirazein* means “to try” or “to test.”

- Darren Philip – “Jesus faces the test of His commitment to the way of the kingdom of heaven – the rule of God over all else.”

Jesus is tested/tempted to:

- (i) abuse his power for his own ends.
- (ii) abuse his privilege to create the spectacular – by performing a sensational act, people will follow him.
- (iii) To cut a deal with the world and the devil.

Deuteronomy 8:2 - Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.”

☞ “Our tests are not to trip us up into sin, but to equip us to conquer sin.”

Luke 4:14 - “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the spirit...”

- **Luke 5:16** - But Jesus often withdrew to the **wilderness** for prayer.

Psalm 63 - “O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.”

Luke 1:80 - John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

- “We all want Canaan (Promised Land) without going through the wilderness.” - **Ravi Zacharias**

Where was God when Jesus was tempted/tested by the devil?

☞ “The desert is the theatre of the human struggle of searching for God.” – Ian Majernik

Isaiah 35:1-2 - *Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.*

- “What makes the desert so beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well.” – Antoine de Saint Exupery