

Wednesday Word

In reflection on the message for Sunday 26th February 2023

Café Service: The seating in the church was arranged with tables each providing six places enabling sharing of coffees, teas, cakes and biscuits, while discussions could be held on questions relating to the scripture reading.

Extracts from Matthew 4, v1-11, **Jesus is Tested in the Wilderness**
v1f: **Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the Wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**
For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.
v3f: **During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”**
But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
v5f: **Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point on the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you.’”**
v7: **Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the LORD your God.’”**
v8f: **Next the devil took him to the peak of a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.**
“I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you kneel down and worship me.”
v10: **“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’”**
v11: **The devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.**

Discussions, relating to this scripture: **Questions on Sin, Temptation and Lent.** The congregation discussed, in their groups of six, the following questions, so sharing their views on these theological matters and learning from each other their personal viewpoints.

The Sin: 1. What was Jesus tempted to do literally? 2. What general category of sin was this? 3. What can you see as a 2023 equivalent?

Avoiding temptation: 1. What did Jesus do to strengthen himself to resist temptation? 2. Why/how did that work for him? 3. Does that strategy work for you? 4. What strategies can you recommend?

Lent 2023: Can I do anything during Lent which might change...?

1. My habits. 2. My relationship with God. 3. My service to others or the church?