

## Luke 4:1-13

**4** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup>and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the first Sunday in Lent and this is a regular Scripture passage for this Sunday. Jesus is challenged and tempted to do things one way, which might seem to be the quick and easy way, but was not the way of obedience and truth to his Father in heaven.

The temptations challenge Jesus' understanding of his identity. The devil offers a different, but perhaps at first glance an attractive, route of self-indulgence, self-glorification and self-serving religious identity.

Having heard words of affirmation from God at his baptism speaking of his true identity the devil challenges that position.

Knowing who we are, is essential to well being. In the complexity of modern society knowing who we are is not easy; in different situations we may feel like different people and life can become very difficult.

At different stages of life, and even at different times of day, we can become "different people" as our situation changes. We react differently to different people; certain circumstance can change us from people of confidence to almost a nervous wreck..

Our position and role changes as we proceed through life. A child attending school, surrounded by about 30 other pupils in a class, can feel different to when at home with parents giving them full attention. A child starting secondary school can have an identity crisis as they move from being one of the older children in a community to the youngest, lost in a mass of unknown people.

The person who is promoted within an employment situation can find themselves suddenly managing colleagues who they have worked alongside; who are they and who are they required to be? At retirement there can be a sense of losing all identity for society can identify people by that which they do not by the person they are.

Our acceptance of who we are is important. Our identity in Christ is secure; we are through faith beloved children of God.

But who am I in the world? You are still a beloved child of God though not all may treat you as such, and even within the Church we are not always valued the same as others.