

Today:
January 18, 2015

Scripture Focus: Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.
And they will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

(Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Which do you think was a better preparation for ministry for Jesus: divine affirmation at his baptism, or the experience of fasting and testing?
- Which of the devil's three temptations do you think was most difficult for Jesus to resist?
- How are you made stronger when you come through temptation without giving in?

This Week: **January 19 - 24**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 1/19	Tuesday 1/20	Wednesday 1/21	Thursday 1/22	Friday 1/23	Saturday 1/24
Psalms 111-118	1 Kings 1-2; Psalms 37, 71, 94	Psalms 119:1- 88	1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72	Psalms 119: 89-176	Song of Solomon 1:1 – 5:1

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

As you read these Psalms of praise, what do you praise God for in your own life?

Tuesday

What strikes you about the transition of kingship from David to Solomon (1 Kings 1-2)?

Wednesday

Psalms 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible. Which verses do you resonate with the most? Why?

Thursday

After reading a bit about Solomon, what strikes you about his wisdom?

Friday

Do you resonate with the way the author of this Psalm talks about the law of the Lord? Why or why not?

Saturday

What is the overarching purpose of the book of Song of Solomon?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we go beyond Christmas and focus more on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text continues with **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: January 25, 2015

Theme: Jesus – His mission

Scripture Focus: *Luke 4:14-30*