

“Who Is This Man?”
“The Tempted Jesus”

The Season of Lent has begun. We begin a new Sermon Series “Who is this Man?” Traditionally the gospel reading on this first Sunday is based on the temptations of Jesus. It sets up the 40 days and reminds the followers of Jesus and that he is human, like each one of us. This tempted Jesus understands our trials and tribulations. Following his temptation in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry proclaiming the good news after the arrest of John. Like Christ, we are called to give witness to the good news in all times and places. May this Jesus be a source of strength and help for us as we live our faith during the coming week. --Pastor Cindy

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: **“The Tempted Jesus”**

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, Your blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by temptations. And, as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen
(The Book of Common Prayer, 20th century)

This week's sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, February 19, 2018 Mark 1: 9-11

Mark is the most succinct gospel. It is considered the earliest gospel by most scholars. It is the basis for many of Matthew and Luke's accounts. There are no infancy narratives; just a straight forward beginning with John the Baptist preparing the way. John baptizes and promises the coming of Jesus. The story of Jesus' baptism by John is told in three verses which is our reading for today. There is no recorded conversation by Mark, just the baptism and the blessing of God, "*You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.*" (Common English Version CEV) Before he is tempted, Jesus is named Beloved. Perhaps it is the claiming by God that enables Jesus to go into the wilderness and face what he must face there. *How does your baptism and claiming by God strengthen you and help you?*

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 Mark 1: 12-13

Immediately following Jesus' baptism and blessing by God, the "Spirit drove him out into the wilderness." There Jesus is tempted for forty days and "was among the wild animals and the angels took care of him." Mark does not describe the temptations, other than Satan is the one who does the tempting. No mention of how many or what might have been difficult for Jesus. Out of the blessing and the baptism comes the time that Jesus wrestles with the tempter. *Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be tempted right after his baptism and blessing? How do you resist temptations faithfully and in a way that draws you closer to God?*

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Mark 1: 14-15

Finally Jesus, coming out of the wilderness begins preaching. John is arrested and Jesus takes over as the preacher who "announces God's good news saying, '*Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!*'" Jesus goes right from his intense time in the wilderness to proclaiming the gospel. Jesus was named, claimed and called to embody the good news of God's kingdom. *How do you see the gospel calling you to change and believe? What is the hardest part of the call of the gospel?*

Thursday, February 22, 2018 1 Peter 3: 13-15

This letter is written to Christians undergoing persecution. In the second chapter, the author is encouraging growth in faith and a reminder that through baptism the followers are now a holy nation, God's own people. Those words are important looking to these verses. These verses ask who would harm God's people? As we know and they knew, there are people who would do harm. Have no fear, don't be troubled, have a heart for Christ. Maybe that is what Jesus experienced before the temptations, the voice of God calling him beloved, strengthened so that he had no fear as he faced the tempter. *How do you reverence Christ in your heart and spirit and life and in doing so, have no fear? How does God strengthen you to face whatever might come your way?*

Friday, February 23, 2018 1 Peter 3: 16-17

These beautiful words "*always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you,*" are a reminder that our faith is being watched. What do we say with our lives? Are we prepared to make a defense? Jesus comes out of the wilderness and begins immediately to proclaim the good news. With gentleness and reverence, we too are called for our lives to proclaim the good news of Christ. Our temptations often, are to be "small" and not give out the hope we have received or defend our faith. *What temptation do you have that keep you from being prepared to give account for the faith you have?*