

Temptations



I got lost once on Kinder Scout in Derbyshire, despite having been up on those hills many times. So confident was I that I could tell one bit of peat bog from another that I hadn't bothered with a map and compass on this occasion. So when the cloud came in and visibility was no more than 15 yards the pulse rate went through the roof. What made it worse was I was with the 'to-be Mrs Doust' trying to act like I knew what I was doing and where we were going whilst every internal alarm bell was ringing that this hill top walk could go spectacularly wrong!

We all get lost at some point. The scripture this week sees us focus on the Temptations of Jesus where he spends 40 days in the 'desert of temptation'. We seem to live permanently in a desert of temptation ... sometimes we can find our way, but all too often many of us are lost in this desert of temptation ... wandering aimlessly on occasions and struggling to find a way out. Temptations can just be too tempting some times. So Christ is our guide when we are lost. By spending 40 days in the same desert as us, He knows the way out. He therefore comes to find us and meet us in this desert ... calling our name ... searching for us in order to accompany us through the desert of temptation and to safety.

Just as the angels looked after Christ in the desert so as a Catholic I believe that Christ also send his angels to watch over us and steer us in the right direction, In a world of temptations, some of us need all the help we can get.

[Mr Doust]

Scripture:

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. The Spirit led Jesus into the desert where the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. Jesus ate nothing during that time. When those days were ended, he was very hungry.

The devil said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, tell this rock to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written in the Scriptures: ‘A person does not live only by eating bread.’”

Then the devil took Jesus and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to Jesus, “I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. If you worship me, all will be yours.”

Jesus answered, “It is written in the Scriptures: ‘You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!’”

Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and put him on a high place of the Temple. He said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! It is written in the Scriptures:

‘He has put his angels in charge of you.

They will watch over you.’

‘They will catch you with their hands.

And you will not hit your foot on a rock.’”

Jesus answered, “But it also says in the Scriptures: ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’”

After the devil had tempted Jesus in every way, he went away to wait until a better time.

Prayer:

O Christ, Son of God, for our sake you fasted forty days and allowed yourself to be tempted. Protect us so that we may not be led astray by any temptation. Since man does not live by bread alone, nourish our souls with the heavenly food of your Word; through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed and live and govern all things, now and forever. Amen.