

The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

HEARING - Speak Lord, your servants are listening! You have the words of eternal life!

1. Read this story a first time.

What words or images resonate with you?

2. Reading the text a second time, we wonder what Jesus is hearing?

3. As we read the text a third time we listen for the response of Jesus.



HAPPENING - Speak Lord, your servants are listening! In the Light of the Word we look at our lives.

*We read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. "*Led by the Spirit ...*"

When have we seen people led by the Spirit into difficult places or difficult situations?

2. "...he was hungry..."

What hungers do we have? What truly satisfies these hungers? What promises to satisfy but fails to do so?

3. "*The devil ... showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.*"

What allures or distract us from what is most important?



"We absorb the words of other books. The words of the Gospel knead us, change us and so to speak absorb us into their own being." Madeline Delbrêl