

The temptation story

A way of presenting Luke 4.1-13

Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, and full of expectation. He had been baptised and knew his work for his Father was about to begin properly. But before that he needed some time: time to get as close as he could to God; time with no distractions at all.

God certainly gave him that time. **Jesus** was led by the Holy Spirit into the place of nothing, the wilderness, and he stayed there for 40 days. Forty days! In that time God came close to him, but so did the **devil** ...

Jesus had not eaten in all that time, so at the end of 40 days he was hungry. Not a 'might have a snack' hungry, or even a 'missing lunch' hungry; not even a 'beginning to feel a bit weak' hungry, but a 40-day, exhausted, nothing left at all hunger. He was pulled towards food.

Then he heard a voice: **'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.'**

Jesus knew this was the devil, but he must have felt pulled by his hunger. **Jesus** answered: **'It is written, "One doesn't live by bread alone."** ' though he must have been pulled towards the temptation.



Suddenly, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and said to him:

‘I will give you all of this, all the glory and you can rule over all of it. You just need to worship me, and it can all be yours.’

Jesus knew this was the devil, but he must have felt pulled by the opportunity. He answered,

‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’

His obedience pulled him back.

Then the devil took Jesus to a pinnacle above all Jerusalem, and he said to him,

‘If you really are the Son of God, throw yourself off! You must know it’s written, “He will make his angels protect you.”’

Jesus knew this was the devil, but he must have felt pulled by the challenge. He answered:

‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

His trust in his Father pulled him back.