

News from Cathcart Trinity Church

July & August 2019



Tempted?

Ruth White approached me after the Sunday morning service and asked if I would write something on a favourite song or Bible passage for the Newsletter. Here goes...

A passage which challenged me before I became a Christian (and continues to challenge when I reflect upon it today) is the temptation of Jesus from Luke's Gospel – Luke 4: 1-13.

It is a favourite Bible passage, but not because it provides reassurance and comfort. Quite the contrary. It explicitly and implicitly says a number of things which are deeply unsettling and uncomfortable. However, it points to some deep truths about Jesus, the devil and humanity. Truths which I think are important to reflect upon.

Here is the passage:

'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.'

The purpose of this short article isn't to provide a full reflection on this passage. Pages and pages could be written, but still only scratch the surface of what this passage can tell us. Instead I'd like to focus on a few points which have connected with me over the years and one or two things which have occurred to me during rereading this passage in preparation for this article.

40 Days of Temptation

One thing I noticed rereading the passage is that the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days. I've just reread the three temptations in Luke's Gospel. It took me less than 3 minutes. OK, the three temptations might have actually taken a bit longer. The leading of Jesus to "a high place" and "[to] the highest point of the [Jerusalem] temple" might have taken some time – but not 40 days. So, what was the devil tempting Jesus with the rest of the time?

I suppose we don't know. It could be something not recorded in Luke or Matthew's Gospel. I'm inclined to think it was more likely the devil was repeatedly tempting Jesus with the three things recorded. Trying to wear Jesus down as Jesus' human body became progressively weaker physically and mentally due to lack of food.

When we're physically and mentally at our weakest, we all know how hard it is to resist temptation. Reflect upon how tough this must have been for Jesus. 40 days without food and the devil tempting Him continuously. Jesus is fully God, but He was also fully human. Imagine how difficult this must have been for the human Jesus.

On Who's Authority?

Something I find deeply unsettling is what the devil says about his second temptation:

'The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.'"

Who gave the devil all the kingdoms of the world – to be given away to whoever he wants?

Today we see (mainly in democracies it must be said) the leaders of today's countries as servants of the people. Undoubtedly these positions of leadership come with authority and splendour, but there is a well-established element of service too. Not so when the devil was tempting Jesus. The concept of a leader who is also a servant came later – modelled directly on Jesus teaching on servant leadership.

Interestingly, the devil only tempts Jesus with the trappings of power – and as we all know: "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

This temptation of Jesus is also a temptation for anyone in a position of leadership and authority. Not just Kings, Queens, Presidents and Prime Ministers, but you and me too.

An Opportune Time...

The last verse of the passage is the one I find most unsettling:

'When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.'

With the devil, the battle is never over. He's always looking for an "opportune time" to encourage us to think, say and do the things he wants us to do. We all have weaknesses. We all have temptations. I know mine. You know yours. The human Jesus knew His.

Why was Jesus tempted with the three specific temptations in the passage? Most probably these were the temptations the human Jesus was struggling with. The devil isn't going to tempt you with stuff you don't struggle with, is he?

Thanks be to God that He gives us the strength and guidance (if we ask for it) to say to our weaknesses and temptations – get behind me satan.

Thanks be to God, that we can turn to Him for help at the “opportune time(s)” in our lives.

Derek McIntyre.

Do you have any questions?

At times my heart sinks when I hear those words. I can be busy thinking “Yes, but I feel too embarrassed to say it aloud” or “No, but does that mean I’ve missed something? Should I have a question? Why can’t I think of a question!?” (Or any other thought between those poles.) However what comes out of my mouth is normally a “No” or something vague that can be taken whatever way the questioner wants, but will allow me to move on with my life.

The thing is questions are important. Questions allow us to explore and ultimately (hopefully) understand whatever situation the question addresses. If you’re encountering a situation and you have a question, the chances are you’re not alone. We all have questions.

That’s why we’re exploring some of the big questions that people have about the Christian faith this summer. The aim of our short sermon series is to introduce some of the big themes such as “The Bible”, “Science and Religion”, “Other Faiths”, “The Future”, “Evil and Suffering” and try to see how we might go about answering questions about them – whether that’s in the context of speaking to someone who has no faith or for those of us in Church that have always wondered about something, but never asked (or have never received an answer before).

We won’t be able to cover everything, but if you have a particular question – we’d love to hear it.

There are times that our answer will be “We don’t know” but that’s okay. There is a brilliant verse in Deuteronomy 29:29 that says: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

This verse reminds us that there are some things that we don’t know, but God has revealed things to us that this revelation can be ours and so that we might live for him. So are we doing that? Are we searching after the truth? Are we exploring the questions on our hearts? And once we’ve found the truth, are we living it out? My prayer is that we are.

Wishing you all a summer of blessing,

Alasdair.

Wider World Team

A small committee from both churches has been formed under the co-chairmanship of Donald Macleod and Andrea Muir.

Its remit is to bring the needs of the wider world to the attention of both churches and to get World Mission on the agenda of each church.

When Jesus was dying on the cross he made several crucial statements. Perhaps the most significant was "It is finished".

In these words He was declaring to all the world that what He had come to do was now complete. He had come to pay the price for our sins – to take upon Himself the judgement of God for our sin – to win the right to give sinners the joy of forgiveness and peace with God and of course to open the doors of heaven for us.

As far as Jesus was concerned the main purpose in His coming was now complete and He could return in triumph to His Father in heaven. His work of salvation was complete but the task of His disciples had only begun.

As He left them to return to heaven He gave them the huge responsibility to take the news of this salvation into every nation in the world. Jesus last spoken words were these. "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And I am with you always to the very end of the age."

These words still stand and it is the responsibility of every Christian and church to obey.

As a start the Wider World Team have three suggestions to make.

1. A Wider World column in the church newsletters.
2. Have a short, less than 5 minute, video of some aspect of world mission or a missionary update once a month in the morning service.
3. A world mission weekend conference with mission speakers. The first of these is planned for the weekend of 26 and 27 October.

Put the dates in your diary now.

'Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.' Acts 4:12 (that name of course is "Jesus").

Willie Black.

Church family news:

We were saddened to learn of the passing of James (Jay) Crawford, Joan Park, Mary Forbes and Jane (Jean) Steven, all members of Cathcart Trinity and Robert Edgar who worshipped regularly with us.

We give thanks for their lives and for their involvement in our Church and pray that they may now be at peace in God's glorious heaven.

We are pleased to welcome, by resolution, Elsie Sellar to the Church family at Cathcart Trinity.

Dates for your diary for Men's events:

Friday 8 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Enjoy an evening of faith, food and fun with Steve Legg, escapologist, comedian, magician and evangelist. Busby Hotel £15.

Saturday 14 September 2019 at 9.00am

Enjoy our second ever men's breakfast with bacon rolls, fried tattie scones and good banter at Cathcart UF Church, all donations welcome.

See Dougie Paton or Tom Purdom to reserve places at either or both of these!

Prayer Breakfast Saturday 24th August 2019 8.30am – 10am Cathcart UF Church

This is the first prayer breakfast for the new session.

We look forward to more people joining us in this very important work. There will be much to pray for as we look forward to the commencement of all the activities in our churches.

A time of fellowship is enjoyed as we have breakfast followed by prayer.

"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished."

1 Chronicles 28 v 20.

Foodbank

Many of us are away on holiday over the summer months and understandably donations to the Foodbank decrease. This is evident in church and supermarket donations.

If you are around can I ask you to donate the following items – tinned potatoes, UHT milk, tinned custard/rice, shaving foam tinned macaroni cheese/ravioli and tinned fish.

If you are making a monetary donation please mark it either food or fresh fruit.

Anne Hind.

General Assembly 2019

This year Cathcart Trinity was invited to send a representative to the General Assembly and I had the privilege to attend.

The opening of the Assembly was full of tradition, was very formal and had many dignitaries and guests. However it was also very moving, and at times very funny.

While addressing the Assembly, the Lord High Commissioner encouraged us to take part in robust, but considerate, debate as we discussed the various reports on the work of the past year and on the work proposed for the coming year. This encouragement was further echoed by one of the guests who encouraged us to make bold decisions for the future of the Church of Scotland.

This led us to discuss the regular business of Assembly but the 'theme' for this year was change. In particular, the reports of the Special Commission on Structural Reform, Council of Assembly and General Trustees proposed changes that were described as the most significant for many years. Collectively these changes are referred to as the Radical Action Plan.

The overall thrust of the Plan is devolution of decision-making and resources from the centre to reorganised regional and local structures, with an emphasis on equipping churches for mission in their local context.

The General Assembly agreed the following decisions:

- Up to £25m to be spent on projects aimed at church growth, with particular emphasis on church planting.
- 100 new worshipping communities to be established
- Focus on engaging with people under 40.
- Cost of central administration to be cut by up to 30%; four councils to be merged into two.
- Number of Scottish presbyteries to be reduced from 43 to about 12, focused on supporting local congregations in their ministry and mission.
- Networks, hubs and other new local church structures to be developed.
- Kirk Sessions to be reduced in size and focused on 'leadership and strategic decision-making.'
- Decision-making and resources to be devolved from the central administration to regional and local levels.
- No congregation to pay more to the centre after next year until new arrangements are agreed.
- Land and buildings plan to focus on 'well equipped spaces in the right places.' Money from sale of redundant buildings to be shared between congregations.
- Improved training and support for all ministry and leadership roles.
- General Assembly to be made smaller.
- Encouragement of a season of 'prayer and preparation' across the Church from September to December 2019.

This summary, and more detail can be found at

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/radical_action_plan

Aside from the regular business there was much more to the Assembly such as

- A wonderful Communion service.
- Daily reflections by the Moderator.
- Daily worship.
- An opportunity to hear about other parts of the Church of Scotland that I didn't really know about.
- A chance to meet people from other churches, and in my case, old school friends.
- And there was even an invitation to Holyrood Palace.

On a personal note, one of the speakers referred to the Try Praying campaign. As I know my prayer life could be better I made a note to myself to dig out my own Try Praying book. However I then found there was a copy waiting for me in my 'pigeon hole' with other papers.

At lunch that day, I stepped out of the Assembly Hall to immediately see a passing bus advertising the Try Praying campaign.

I thought that's a coincidence. On the train home that evening the same Try Praying advertisement was in the coach I sat in.

Another coincidence or am I being told something...

Ewan Gourlay.



Walking Together Reflective Walks for All Ages

Walking Together was the theme of the 2018-19 Moderator, the Very Rev Susan Brown, and General Assembly has been encouraging churches to get involved in different types of pilgrimage.

What opportunities might there be to walk with a group from your church?

Can you create a time to walk, talk and pray?

Reflective walks can be a meaningful way for people to connect with God, creation and each other. They can be done alone or in a group, with church regulars or those with no church connection, in a rural or urban setting.

Walking Together cards have been produced to encourage conversation and reflection with people of different generations. These have proved very popular and have already been used by Boys and Girls Brigade groups, Guild groups and church groups of different ages.

The cards focus on a theme such as a view, a stone, food or water, and provide walkers with prompts for something to think about, something to do and something to talk about.

Free sets of cards and a Leaders' Guide can be downloaded or ordered from the Resourcing Mission shop:
<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/shop>

In Your paths, Lord Jesus,
We walk, our hands in Yours
As You lead us forward
In step
Together
Open to You
And Your world
For Your sake

Very Rev Susan Brown.

There are countless definitions and interpretations of pilgrimage. A new page on the Resourcing Mission website signposts just a few of these different approaches.
<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/mission/pilgrimage>

The Guild

Last year, during the summer months of April to September, the Guild tried a trial run of Afternoon Teas. These proved very popular, so we plan on having them again this year - the next one will be on Wednesday 31st July from 2 - 3.30 pm. Please come to



enjoy tea/coffee, delicious home baking and good companionship. Subsequent teas will be on the last Wednesday of each month. We look forward to your company.

Margaret Brough.

Thank you!

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the cards, flowers and kind comments received on my recent short stay in hospital.

Most uplifting.

Hazel McKinnon.

Safeguarding Training Dates 2019 (Volunteers)

Working with children, young people or vulnerable adults in our church?

- Volunteers are required to do training to help us all to have a shared understanding about safeguarding.
- New dates for training will be available soon.
- Volunteer training will be booked by Donald Macleod.
- When you contact Donald, please give him your email address and a contact number as this is required when booking.
- If you are no longer working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, please let me know.
- Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to talk about the training, your role or any other safeguarding matter.

Thank you for all you do to keep our church a safe place for all.

Linda Burke

L829burke@btinternet.com

Donald Macleod

d-macleod@hotmail.co.uk



Being a praying congregation is part of our vision.

We can pray with one another and for one another.

All we need is a heart open to God: to speak to Him, to listen to Him.

We can go to God in prayer just as we are.

Prayer with others respects confidentiality and is a shared time speaking and listening to God.

Our prayer may include:

- thanksgiving
- concerns in our community / world
- about a particular issue
- for our church family
- for ourselves
- response to what God is saying

Who: anyone.

When: at the end of worship.

Where: near the band

Summer Board Games Nights

In **July** and **August** we will be meeting
each Thursday
except for 1st August
from 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Cathcart UF Church



July & August at a Glance

Sunday 7th July	11.00am	Morning Worship.
Thursday 11th July	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service (no lunch)
Sunday 14th July	11.00am	Morning Worship.
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
Monday 15th July	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 18th July	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service (no lunch)
Saturday 20th July	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 21st July	11.00am	Morning Worship.
Thursday 25th July	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service (no lunch)
Sunday 28th July	11.00am	Morning Worship.
Monday 29th July – Friday 2nd August		Space Academy, Light Speed & Youth Cafe
Sunday 4th August	11.00am	Morning Worship
Monday 5th August	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 8th August	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 11th August	11.00am	Morning Worship
	2.45pm	Cartvale Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 15th August	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 17th August	4pm	Messy Church
Sunday 18th August	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Monday 19th August	2pm	Moments Cafe
Thursday 22nd August	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Saturday 24th August	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast (UF Church)
Sunday 25th August	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Thursday 29th August	12.45pm	Lunchtime Service
Sunday 1st September	11.00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship



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Cathcart Trinity Church is a registered Scottish Charity, SC033802

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