

## Temptation

***Then Jesus ... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
being tempted for forty days by the devil. (v. 1-2a)***

There are definitely two competing stories in this verse; one shows the devil's intent and the other shows Jesus' self-awareness. The devil tells of self-indulgence (make yourself bread from stones), self-aggrandizement (all the nations of the world are yours, if you worship me), and self-serving religious identity (if you are the son of God cast yourself from the top of the temple). He even quotes Psalms in his delivery.

Jesus responds with his own quotations from the Old Testament showing the true source of life and identity (life is more than food), his reliance on God (the one worthy of worship), and his understanding of God's character (not one to be tested). Jesus demonstrates his dependence on God rather than self for life, glory, and for his identity.

When I feel I am being tempted by the devil it is usually about food – for me, food that I should not eat - or it is about being judgmental. There are bible verses to remind me what God expects of me for these temptations: Proverbs 25:16, “If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it” and Luke 6:37 warns “judge not and you will not be judged.” It is really all there, the answers to all of our questions and temptations, we just need to find, read and understand it.

**Dear Lord, I pray that you help us all understand the source of our identity is you and your love for us. You give your love abundantly and fully so we should do the same. Amen**