

Second Week Prayer Units
Prayer Unit 16

Theme: After being strengthened and becoming more sensitive through his desert experience, Jesus begins his public and political life.

Grace: To ask for what I desire -- a deep-felt knowledge of God become human for me so that I might love Jesus more and follow his Spirit more closely.

Prayer Texts:

- a) Mt 4:1-11 Be with Jesus as he is tempted in the desert.
- b) Lk 4:14-32 Accompany Jesus as he experiences rejection from the people of his own town.
- c) Repetition
- d) Repetition
- e) Application of Senses
- f) Two Standards [136]-[147].

How am I being called to cooperate with others in developing a more caring world? If I am to be a follower of Jesus, and given my own personal story and gifts, what elements or nuances would characterize my following of Jesus? The tapestry of Jesus' life is woven from many threads and colours. Which of these threads and colours need to be part of my own tapestry?

Poverty of spirit means that my confidence is in God alone, not even in my own talents or gifts or achievements. It is to open to God all the resources of my intellect, heart, possessions and time. It is to cooperate consciously with God's dream for planet earth in my plans, endeavours and choices. It means that I am sufficiently detached from such things as my need for approval, esteem, possessions, etc. so that I am dependent only on God's Spirit.

Additional Readings for reflection outside prayer times:

Rom 5:18-19	In the desert, Jesus is tempted to be disobedient to his call and follow the way of political or miraculous power. By overcoming these temptations, he reverses our disobedience symbolized in the story of Eve and Adam.
Ps 94:17-23	There he experienced poverty of spirit -- empty of all resources except his dependence on his Abba,
Ps 91	and so over and over again, he places his trust in his nurturing God.
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-10	This is a description of the kind of struggle he went through,
Sir 51	and so at the end of it, his prayer might very well have been like this. Through his struggles he recalled and relearned and received the wisdom that was to be his during the next three years during which
Mk 8:31-33	he would be able to recognize the same tempter again in another way.

We can rely on a power at work in nature and the human heart, a power, a truth that will heal and unite us.

We will join the dance of the universe, find our common ground here in our garden home -- the earth.

-- from "Wounded Earth, Wonder Earth,"
the 1989 calendar by Mary Southard

Failure is implicit in challenge.

It wouldn't be a challenge if we knew we could do it.

-- from "The Woman's Comfort Book" by Jennifer Loudon

Additional Readings for reflection outside prayer times:

Mt 13:54-56	Jesus was known and recognized to be the carpenter's son, and so his own people would be really surprised in later years when he spoke with authority.
Phil 2:1-5	Jesus had to learn how to get along with others and not be motivated by rivalry or conceit. Paul asks us to do the same.
Col 3:12-21	The context of Paul's teaching for us is also the context in which Jesus grew up.
Heb 2:14-18	Jesus had to become like us in every way.
Ps 42	This psalm may very well have expressed Jesus's feelings as he kept pondering his temple experience at the age of twelve: "My soul longs for you, O my God ... I remember when I went with the throng to your house ...
Ps 63:1-8	thus have I gazed toward you in the holy place to see your glory."