

PART I

With Jesus in the Desert

(Matthew 4: 1-11)

Then 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.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Is there someone I know who became ill with COVID-19, or who has died from the virus?
2. What relationships in my life have suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. How has the pandemic effected the things I normally do?
4. Have I suffered any material loss due to the pandemic (i.e. did I lose my job? Or, have there been things that I cannot have?)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I ask that your spirit open my mind and heart as I reflect upon the struggles I face. Help me to name them, and to reflect upon them. Gracious God, I ask for the grace to carry these burdens with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen