

Pastor Randy's short devotion for February 27th:

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)

After Jesus was baptized by John, the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove and the Father declared, “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.” Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by Satan. Jesus was ready to begin his ministry, to bring the kingdom of heaven in the midst of the people. Jesus and the Father had conversations for forty days, talking about the people, talking about Jesus' suffering, the cross, and death. Following the forty days, Jesus looked around the wilderness and saw not a soul in sight and Jesus noticed he was hungry. Just then Satan strolled by and began his temptations. First, Satan tempted Jesus to use his powers as the Son of God to turn some stones into bread to feed his hunger. Then Satan tempted Jesus to avoid the cross and suffering, twice. Jesus saw through each temptation for his focus was on his Father's love and you. Jesus knew there was no short cut to take on the powers of sin, death and Satan. Jesus took on these powers of brokenness and death head on. He suffered the rejection, the mockery, the beating, the whipping, the crucifixion. Then he defeated sin, death and Satan in his glorious resurrection. Through it all, Jesus had his eye on his Father's love and you. Jesus breaks through the brokenness, the pain and hurt and brings you into his Father's love. You are the delight of the Father's heart.