

First Sunday in Lent – Choose to believe

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Focus

ABM works with the Episcopal Church of the Philippines amongst the poorest of the poor. The livestock distribution program aims to provide rural families with at least one pig, cow, goat or chicken. Raising livestock can be an alternative source of income for poor families. The offspring of these animals are given to other families and so the gift multiplies and the whole village benefits.

Sentence

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Reflection

What is the meaning of Jesus' call into the desert? How is this call to be lived out? Each of us is called to ministry and mission. Our own desire for creature comforts and for power along with our pride in our own selves can distract us from that call to mission and ministry.

Out of this wilderness experience, Jesus emerges spirit-filled and stronger. Out of our own 'wilderness experience', Jesus calls us into ministry and mission with him for God's greater glory.

Affirmation

We believe in a creator God who calls us into mission and ministry, who created the world and all that is in it.

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God, and that he calls us to choose how we live our lives on earth and that he leads us into the way of peace and justice for all humankind.

We believe in God as Holy Spirit who comforts and challenges us to heed the Gospel call and who will guide and guard us should we choose to follow that call.

LENT 1

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus, help us in our choices.

Congregation: and guide us into the way of truth.

In a world that unevenly divides God's great abundance, in a world that offers so little to the poor and starving, show us ways in which we can join with others to make a difference. **L.C.**

We give you thanks for the work of your church and for the work of ABM both here and abroad. Show us ways in which we can support this work by sharing ourselves and our resources with them, assisting them to do your work in the world. **L.C.**

We give thanks for your servants in every age who have worked to promote your kingdom, to give help and succour to the poor and needy and especially those who through the years have worked with ABM. Help us to follow their good examples. **L.C.**

Response/Action

Choose to:

- **Hope...** that God will lead you into a way of truth and justice... that God will show you the right choices to make, that God will strengthen you to meet your particular call to action.
- **Love...** all that is good and just... to do God's work in the world... all who are poor and suffering.
- **Give...** your time and resources... your support and encouragement to those directly involved in God's work in the world.



This cow was presented to a village family in the Northern Philippines by ABM through the Episcopal Church of the Philippines. Its calf will be given to another family and so the gift multiplies.

LENT 1 STUDY GROUP QUESTIONS

Jesus said: "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Watch the DVD 'From Cows to Comfort Rooms'.

1. Jesus was "led by the Holy Spirit". Do you know others who have been led by the Holy Spirit?
2. How might such a call be heard or felt?
3. If God calls you, what choices do you have?
4. Have you experienced temptation? We might not have been tempted in quite the same way as Jesus.

Jesus' temptations for us might be:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| turn stone into bread | self-serving behaviour. |
| rule all the Kingdoms | a desire for power and dominance. |
| jump from the Temple | pride in ourselves, wanting to be noticed and valued. |

5. Jesus responded to the devil's temptations by pointing to his own identity and to what God desires of humankind. Can this help us to also resist the temptations of the devil?