



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

18 February 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Mark 1:9-15 (NLT)

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Sometimes the thing that is holding you back is all in your mind. ~ anon

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22



CHURCH SERVICES

25 February 11am West ~Graham Barwick



4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY

"With Jesus to Calvary"

Start - 27 February 7.30pm and 28 February 2pm

Contact Geoff 0421 338 202

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



A NEW SINGING GROUP

is commencing at Hallsville Church!



Join the fun 5:30 - 7:00pm, every fortnight

commencing **8th March**

No cost is involved.

Everyone is welcome. No-one is too young, or too old.

If you play an instrument, please bring it along.

There will be a light meal provided following the singing.

The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



D V Q K S F O R G I V E J M V
 B X F P W G J B A P T I Z E D
 D H R P D T R O H O K X V S H
 K F H V N E I D R E W G W L J
 X Q A E T H J Y K D A L F S J
 V N P A N W T M R K A V F C Z
 H E W P J I J L M N R N E C W
 R Q O S N Q J O O C O Z D N Y
 C O N F E S S C L L J T Z D E
 Y J S J O H N U W O H O N E Y
 J F E I A H I S X T N E P P R
 I P G S N B T T Z H H M G E D
 Q F I B U S I S Z I W H V L I
 B P E O Z S F N D N T I I P N
 Z Y S P I R I T D G R W U U T

REPENT
CLOTHING
LOCUSTS
SPIRIT

JORDAN
SINS
WATER
CONFESS

FORGIVE
JESUS
RIVER
HONEY

HEAVEN
WILD
BAPTIZED
JOHN

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for Beth's successful pacemaker replacement surgery.
- We pray for Lynne Bowd's brother Bob, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- We continue to pray for Hugo, who has many health problems at the moment.
- We pray for a solution to the problems in the Middle East. We pray for each child caught up in the fighting.
- We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.

Meg's Musings

There is a saying, "From little things, big things grow." From a period of 40 days spent in isolation, Jesus came to the understanding of who He was, and what He should do with his life.

From Marg's idea that we could run an OpShop at Hallsville, Fabulous Finds has grown into a success.

From July to December last year, over \$12,000 was raised.

Clothing and household items have been recycled, and found happy new owners.

Many people have enjoyed morning tea, and a time of sharing around the tables.

A sense of community, and belonging, has developed. When God blesses "little" things, they grow abundantly!

Blessings from Meg



Hawkeye: War isn't Hell. War is war, and Hell is Hell. And of the two, war is a lot worse.

Father Mulcahy: How do you figure that, Hawkeye?

Hawkeye: Easy, Father. Tell me, who goes to Hell?

Father Mulcahy: Sinners, I believe.

Hawkeye: Exactly. There are no innocent bystanders in Hell. War is chock full of them — little kids, cripples, old ladies. In fact, except for some of the brass, almost everybody involved is an innocent bystander.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



Words from Rev Geoff

Ever wondered why Chocolate has become synonymous with Easter. Cadbury claims the launch of dairy milk chocolate in 1905 led to the popularity of Chocolate Easter Egg over the traditional painted duck eggs. And the Sun New comments "the modern tradition of eating chocolate eggs at Easter is a fun twist on the religious ritual, and makes it more accessible to children and those of a non-religious disposition." Cynics would argue that the chocolate manufactures have latched onto Easter as a good opportunity to sell more chocolate.

To those of us who follow the Christian Calendar, the season of Lent is a season of six weeks during which time we'll come face to face with mortality and sin, then turn our faces and our lives back toward God, seeking a new relationship with God, God's people, and God's world. It is a time to concentrate of the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting, a time to resist the temptation to indulge in the pleasures of life.

So if I say to you "Whatever you do, don't think about Chocolate?" I guarantee many of you are now thinking about chocolate. Perhaps you are already reaching for a block of that glass and a half of dairy milk chocolate. Temptation always starts from something that is good in itself. Chocolate is the creation of the good and loving God just as much as bread. A serious Christian will realize that sin comes not in Chocolate itself but in the wrong use or perhaps in the case of the chocolate its over consumption to the point where our diet is short on fibre and heavy of sugar resulting in a decline in our sense of wellbeing.

In our Gospel reading this Sunday, unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark offers us no colourful details about Jesus's experience in the wilderness. We don't learn what the specific temptations were, or how Jesus responded to them. Mark doesn't even assure us that Jesus "passed" his desert test. All he gives us are two abrupt sentences: "And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him."

However, the few details Mark does include are most insightful as we experience the wilderness in our own lives. Here are three you may wish to contemplate this week.

1. Jesus didn't choose the wilderness.
2. The struggle is long.
3. There are angels in the desert.

Rev Geoff



"Temptation is the feeling we get when encountered by an opportunity to do what we innately know we shouldn't." ~ Steve Maraboli