

PASTOR'S NOTE

Full and complete dependence on God. How can we do this? After all, we are not able to see God and as mere human beings and we can't all even agree that God exists let alone know the plans God has for us – individually or collectively.

Relationships. We make them, we break them, we long for them when we are lonely, we endure them even if they are physically or mentally painful, still the only perfect relationship is with God our Creator. The One who first initiated a true connection with us is ready and willing for us to accept that invitation for a relationship with the Living God.

This month we will be contemplating and observing the season of Lent as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. For some of us, this is a season with familiar stories and reflections from the Bible, but there are many others in our personal and extended families who only know a small part of the Easter story. I encourage you to consider taking a fresh look at these 40 days of Lent.

I will share with you one of my Email devotionals that highlights how a child might be impacted by the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert.

*Satan the bully says to a hungry Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." And Jesus responds with, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" **As a child I heard this to mean that not every want or need has to be gratified. Be content with what you have.***

*Satan the arrogant tyrant says to a weary Jesus, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." But Jesus knows where He will find peace, and declares, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" **As a child I heard this and thought that Jesus knew that riches were nice, but also temporary and unfulfilling. Be focused on what is important.***

And finally, Satan the educated know-it-all needles Jesus with, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that

*you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" A patient Jesus, confident in His Father's love, admonishes him with, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **I heard how much the Father loved His Son, and that this did not need to be tested. Be secure in God's love.***

Although we are not perfect individuals or even perfect parents, children can and do learn from older people in their lives. Let us also learn from them, learn to see God's Word with awe and wonder and accept the fact that God really does love us.

God provides for our needs, hears us when we pray and has given everything – even the life of His Son – to include us in the Kingdom and to live forever in the loving arms of God.

Let us continue to pray for our family and friends and ask God to show us how to build and maintain meaningful relationships where everyone can know, understand, and experience the love of God through us. God created us for relationships and will guide us when we ask for help to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighbourhoods, in our city and even to the entire world.

Please feel free to share your blessings and prayers with us. Send an Email to me BroadwayFirstPastor@gmail.com or to the church office BFBC@mymts.net and if you like they can be passed on to the congregation during our Sunday morning services during this Easter season 2024!

