

## Mark 1.9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

I don't know about you but I have had few experiences of hearing some kind of voices during the night or whilst meditating. It was always something that I was looking for and on the rare occasions that it happened, it helped me quite a lot. However, it is not a common experience. For me, it is just at time when I was trying to find reasons or answers for the queries that I had in life.

Could you imagine Jesus' experience? He was just baptized by John in the Jordan and a voice came to him saying: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." It is such a lovely expression to him. Probably he thought I have earned my day, as we say when we have a wonderful experience like that.

In fact, the coming of a Dove was a confirmation of his ministry and what he would experience in the desert. The 40 days were a preparation for his ministry among people at that time. Jesus was able to reflect about how the future course of his life would unfold and also to relate to God his father in a very intimate way.

After the wilderness, he has a trial time. The bible says Satan tempted him in many ways and he was able to refuse all temptations, because he was very close to God. Nothing could separate him from what God had prepared for him. I am sure he was very aware of what God wanted from him.

The wilderness' experience gave him the notion of whom he was and what he would have to do in his ministry. The temptations were huge, but Jesus was able to withstand them because it was his responsibility to bring Good News to those who were desperate for salvation.

Nowadays, it is very important to think during the season of lent the ways we exercise our faith in God. For a good relationship with him, it is advisable that we can spend sometime in reflection and meditation to check how we ourselves are relating with God.

There are so many distractions that take us sometimes far way from God's will. Even when we are doing church work, it is possible to lose a bit of our good

relationship with God. The reason for that is simple, generally, we go away from what God wants to do through our lives to support others.

It is very popular for many people to give up something during the season of lent. We give up chocolate, cheese, computer, Internet etc. Is it worthwhile? Definitely, it is! But sometimes, we are required to do more. Why? Because, it is easy to give up things and then perhaps, to forget the reason why we are doing it.

Jesus was tempted and he was able to say no to those temptations. However, he was able, as well, to carry on his life delivering his main purpose on the earth. He came to share Good News to people and to invite them to repent of their sins. Moreover, he was able to give them salvation.

The season of lent is a time for reflection about ourselves and our relationship with God, and afterwards be ready to carry on proclaiming the Good News in the world.