



1st SUNDAY of LENT
YEAR B – February 18, 2018

Modern life can sometimes makes us feel like a camel in a zoo. Camels need to get into the desert to find out who and what they really are. And like camels in a zoo we need sometimes to go into a desert place in order to discover who we truly are.

Lent invites us to enter into a spiritual kind of desert to do exactly that - to experience who we are by God's design.

In today's gospel (Mark 1:12-15) we read that after Jesus was baptized "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him".

The desert was the school where Jesus came to distinguish between the voice of God which he should follow and the voice of Satan which is temptation.

How many voices do we hear from the moment we get up in the morning until the moment we go to sleep at night? The countless voices in the daily paper, the soliciting voices on the radio and television, the voices of those who live and work with us, not forgetting our own unceasing inner voices. In our spiritual desert we leave most of these voices behind to focus on the difference between the guiding voice of God and the tempting voice of Satan.

In this Lenten desert we come to know ourselves as God knows us, we get to know our strengths and weaknesses, and our calling from God Himself.

We can all create a desert space in our overcrowded lives. We can set aside a place and time to be alone with God each day, a time to distance ourselves from the many noises and voices that bombard our daily lives, a time to hear God's voice in the Scriptures, a time to rediscover who we are before God, a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did in the Gospel story today.

Every year, Jesus invites us to come into this spiritual desert we call Lent and to learn who we really are - to see ourselves as God sees us.

For a few moments in silence set aside all the distractions that are already a part of this day and listen in the silence for the voice of God.

What does he ask of you today?

