

**LIPHOOK METHODIST CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2015, 10am**  
**THINKING DAY ALL AGE WORSHIP**

**Reading: Mark 1:9-15**

What is temptation?

1. “naughty but nice”?

Boy and the apples ...

Are you trying to steal my apples?

No, I’m trying not to

2. something that leads you astray from God’s ways

Being a Guide/Brownie/Rainbow

What sort of person does that mean you are?

Kind, generous, helpful, patient, gentle,

Suppose we offered you the possibility of getting someone else to do those things for you? – but you can have the credit?

Does that make you that sort of person?

Suppose we said that if you just do something very simple – just do one of those good turns and for your own benefit and we’ll make sure you get the credit for doing good things?

Does that make you that sort of person?

Jesus’ baptism was an affirmation of his identity, mission, ministry, – like your Promises and the renewal of your Promises that you’ve done just now – that’s an affirmation that you’re the kind of person who is a Guide, a Brownie or a Rainbow.

We’re at the beginning of Lent – the time leading up to Easter when we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested.

It was mentioned in our reading.

Jesus was changed by the testing

Came out stronger, ready to live up to the affirmation of the voice from heaven

Can't expect God to help us resist the cream cakes – because they're not sinful, they don't lead us away from God's paths

Can expect God to help us resist what leads us away from his paths, what questions our identity as God's children and people of his Kingdom

Being the kind of people we have described Guides and Brownies and Rainbows as is also like the people of God's Kingdom:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

We can expect God to help us resist the kind of tests I gave you just now.

Because Jesus came, God's Kingdom came near;

because God is with us and in us his people, God's Kingdom is near

therefore(!) – repent (go in that right direction) don't be tempted by the seemingly attractive path that undermines who and what you are

and believe (trust – rely upon) that good news, think about and develop that belief and trust in God's help to be the best Guide, Brownie or Rainbow you can be.

Lent is a good time to do that. See if you can find one thing every day that demonstrates your promise to be kind, to serve the Queen and your community and to help other people

That's part of what he meant when he met individuals and said to them  
"Come follow me" ...