



## Key Text

Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13

*When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.*

*The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.*

*And he said to him, "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."*

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

*The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.*

*"If you are the Son of God," he said, "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.'"*

*Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

*When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*

Think about these 2 word groups.

Group 1	Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ tame,</li><li>▪ predictable,</li><li>▪ comfortable,</li><li>▪ safe,</li><li>▪ sustainable,</li><li>▪ content,</li><li>▪ peaceful,</li><li>▪ reliable,</li><li>▪ sure,</li><li>▪ rest.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ wild,</li><li>▪ unpredictable,</li><li>▪ uncomfortable,</li><li>▪ dangerous,</li><li>▪ unsustainable,</li><li>▪ adventurous,</li><li>▪ alert,</li><li>▪ surprising,</li><li>▪ unsure,</li><li>▪ restless.</li></ul>

Which group of words is more immediately attractive to you?

I think for a lot of people

- we want to say that **Group 2** the **right side** is more appealing. It feels more noble and more adventurous to do so.
- But, to be honest, I think most of us would say that **Group 1** really has our heart, and having our heart, it also has our bank account, our relational patterns, and the lion's share of our daily choices.

Why choose the wild and unpredictable when the tame and comfortable is right there beside it?

- Are you invested in creating a **Group 1** life—a life that is tame, predictable, peaceful, sustainable, and sure?
- Do your habits reflect it?
- Does your job reflect it?
- Do your relationships and the way you handle them reflect it?
- Does the way you follow Jesus reflect it?

Thomas Merton, when speaking of the early desert fathers—those who chose a wild and unpredictable life when the empire became Christianized—wrote:

What the fathers sought most of all was their true self, in Christ. And in order to do this, they had to reject completely the false, formal self, fabricated under social compulsion 'in the world.'

Jesus is the name his Father in heaven gave him; and to the Hebrews, a name means everything.

<p><b><i>“You are my Son”</i></b> Jesus’s core identity and vocation is clear: to live as a Son in perfect covenant communion with his Father. Jesus knows <b>who</b> he is.</p>	<p><b>You</b> are called by name You are <b>called</b> God’s child – his son, his daughter</p>
<p><b><i>“Whom I love”</i></b> Jesus receives, at the beginning of his ministry, a word of affection and belovedness that will feed him the rest of his life. Jesus knows <b>whose</b> he is.</p>	<p>You are <b>loved</b> by him</p>
<p><b><i>“With you I am well pleased”</i></b> Jesus receives an affirmation of his value before he has even done one miracle. Jesus knows <b>why</b> he is and what he must do that flows from it—he will not draw his sense of purpose from anything other than the Father’s love.</p>	<p>Don’t let anyone take that away from you</p>

Read **Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-2**

As you read the text. listen to and identify what stands out to you.

What’s a word or a phrase that jumps out to you?

- Why?
- Why does it stand out to you?

Read these verses again. Picture yourself in that scene. Imagine yourself there

- What do you sense or feel or hear the spirit saying to you