



# **an introduction to Lent...**

**last week...**

**Where is Jesus ?**

**Who am I ?**

**(in the Gospel of John)**



# John 1:1-18

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**Jesus into the  
wilderness...**

**Jean Vanier**

Drawn into the  
Mystery of Jesus  
through the Gospel of John



## INTRODUCTION

Our world is entering a new era.  
Never before have we had at our disposal such technology.  
We can visit space, isolate the origins of  
life, and even manipulate genes. We have new medications for psychotic  
illness.

The last century was a century of hope, an immense hope in science.  
We thought we could at last bring peace to the world  
and that everyone's needs could be attended to.

But what do we see at the beginning of this new millennium?  
War, genocide, new forms of destructive weapons, HIV/AIDS,  
an ever-increasing gap between wealthy and poor countries.  
A world governed more and more by an economy that is  
disrespectful of minority cultures and of the deepest human needs.  
An aggressive individualism that fosters selfishness prevails;  
each for his or her own self.  
We face a breakdown of what holds people together  
in family and cultural groups.  
Our poor earth is abused by greed.  
The weak are easily crushed and put aside.  
We all want to be winners,  
though in reality so few can be.  
Many will lose, only to become victims.

Where are there signs of hope today?  
More than ever before there is a consciousness  
of the importance of each and every human being,  
whatever their race, culture or religion,  
their abilities or disabilities.

We are becoming more conscious  
of the vulnerability of our earth and of human life.  
Yet depression, oppression, anguish and death  
seem to loom everywhere.  
Where to turn? What direction to take? Have we lost our way?  
What is the meaning of our world and of our lives?

Many today seek to discover meaning in spirituality.  
They seek inner healing and wholeness, inner peace and tranquility  
to taste the infinite and the divine within them.  
This spirituality can, however, close some people up in themselves  
and cut them off from the pain and the oppressed of this world.

**Jesus is tempted...**

# Order of Events

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Genealogy			The word....
Early Years		Early Years	
John the Baptist	John the Baptist	John the Baptist	John the Baptist
Jesus' Baptism	Jesus' Baptism	Jesus' Baptism (Genealogy)	(John talks about it)
Into the wilderness Temptations	Into the wilderness Temptations	Into the wilderness Temptations	
Jesus calls [some of] his disciples	Jesus calls [some of] his disciples	Jesus starts his ministry	Jesus calls [some of] his disciples

**Jesus into the  
wilderness...**



## **John 1:14**

So the Word became flesh and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

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Here is the heart, the center, the beginning and the end of the gospel:  
the heart, the center, the beginning and the end of history.  
God, the eternal God, Creator of the heavens and the earth,  
became like us, a vulnerable, mortal human being.  
He became as a baby needing a mother,  
conceived in her flesh  
nourished at her breast  
needing her love and the love and presence of Joseph  
in order to grow and develop as a human being.  
He "dwelt amongst us,"  
which can be translated "put up his tent amongst us."  
He became a pilgrim and a brother,  
walking through the desert with us.  
He became part of history  
revealing to us a way to God  
and to universal peace.

## John 1:14

So the Word became flesh and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

“made his home” – σκηνόω – to live, dwell

σκηνή – tabernacle (exodus typology)

## Exodus 40

34 Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. 35 Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

36 Now whenever the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. 37 But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. 38 The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys.

**Jesus into the  
wilderness...**



**Jesus joins us in the  
wilderness...**

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It is Jesus who will lead us all in and through the dailiness of life  
and the darkness of the world  
into something new:  
a simple, loving friendship with God  
where we will be free from fear, hatred and violence;  
free to love people,  
particularly those who are weak and suffering.

**in lent we  
intentionally invite  
Jesus to join us in  
the wilderness...**



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Jesus is at the center of this new way of life  
that he has come to bring.  
God has become one of us through the body of Jesus.  
God is no longer far off in the heavens,  
symbolized by the great beauty and majesty  
of the Temple of Jerusalem.  
God has pitched his tent among us.  
God is a fellow pilgrim, with all the vulnerability of a human being,  
walking through the desert of life with us.  
This new sanctuary is not made of precious stones  
but of flesh and blood,  
which permit a meeting, a presence to people  
and a presence that will be relationship,  
a communion of hearts,  
a community.





the communion table...