



3/10/19 Luke 4: 1-13 & Dt. 26: 4-10

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

[An old friend of mine Fr. Cletus Wessels](#) taught: "These temptations picture for us the inner struggle of Jesus and they reinforce the reality of Jesus' humanity. Just because he was God's beloved Son does not mean that he could escape the need to re-examine his motives. His was a mission of immense importance, and the greater the mission the greater the need for clarity and purity with respect to that mission. All Christians are called through prayer and the Holy Spirit to discover their identity as daughters and sons of God, to be driven out into the desert, and, through temptation, to clarify and purify their mission within the community. Both Jesus and the Christian community are called to face the powers of evil and then to announce the good news to the poor."

On this first Sunday of Lent we enter our own desert in order to empty ourselves of whatever tempts us to do the right thing for the wrong reason. Let us begin.

Luke 4:1-13

1 Jesus, **full** of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **led** by the **Spirit** in the desert, 2 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**. 3 The **devil** said to him, "**If** you are the **Son of God**, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "**It is written**: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" 5 The **devil** **led** him up to a **high place** and showed him in an instant all the **kingdoms of the world**. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their **authority** and **splendor**, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So **if** you **worship** me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered, "**It is written**: '**Worship** the Lord your God and serve him only.'" 9 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. 10 For **it is written**: "'He will command his **angels** concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 **they will lift you up** in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the **test**.'" 13 When the **devil** had finished all this tempting, he left him until an **opportune time**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The temptations of busyness and muchness surround us and threaten our integrity. How do these temptations take on reality in my life?

PRAYER: Beloved son Jesus, your time away to reflect on just what being the beloved son of God really means, reveals all the false ways that could lead you to do the right things for the wrong reasons. But the tempter's methods seem so fail safe and would expedite the process in ways that patient compassion might fail to do. It means that I would have to trust God's process and might never live to see success. Help me as I struggle with which way to go this Lent. Amen.