

Third Sunday in Lent
Luke 4:1-13

“The account of our Lord’s temptation in the wilderness is the traditional Holy Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent. His time of testing, with its forty days of fasting, prompted the development of the season of Lent in the life of the Church as a forty-day period of fasting and introspection preceding the celebration of Easter.”

1. Why is a time of preparation for Easter appropriate? Psalm 51:9-12 and Joel 2:12-13.
2. Sin is turning away from God (to something else). This “something else” **promises** us fulfillment or happiness through the **work** of **re-creating** the world around us to reflect the **image** presented by this “something else.”
 - a. Promises
 - b. Work
 - c. Re-creating
 - d. Image
3. The promises are false and our turning away from God and His forgiveness in Christ leads to:
 - a. Division. James 4:1-2
 - b. Isolation. Jonah 2:1-3 and Isaiah 5:13-14.
 - c. Judgment. Matthew 11:21-28.
 - d. Death. Romans 6:21-23.
4. Repentance is when God (through the Law) turns us back to Him. How? By revealing what we deserve and how _____ we really are. Matthew 5:3 and Matthew 11:4-6.
5. “Satan’s “If You are the Son of God . . . ,” like his “Did God actually say...” (Genesis 3:1) in the Garden of Eden, aimed at raising doubt. At Jesus’ Baptism, the Father had spoken from heaven, declaring, “You are My beloved Son” (Mark 1:11), and had filled Jesus with the Holy Spirit. Now, led by the Spirit into this decisive confrontation with the Tempter, Jesus had to acknowledge and evidence for Himself who He is and why He was there.”

6. Seeing ourselves as sons and daughters of God through His Son, Jesus, empowers us:

a. (1st temptation) to focus our lives on the _____, not on _____;

b. (2nd temptation) to avoid emphasizing _____ we want to have instead of _____ we get it;

c. (3rd temptation) to _____ God instead of selfishly _____ Him.

7. How were these temptations to Jesus? How are they temptations to us?

8. What did Jesus use as His weapon in overcoming Satan and his temptations?

9. What does this day tell us about overcoming the temptations we face?