

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

1. Today we hear about the Fall of Adam and Eve AND Jesus' Temptation in the desert
 - Scripture is full of temptation stories
 - i. Adam and Eve
 - ii. David and Bathsheba
 - iii. Job is tempted to curse God
 - iv. Jesus in the desert
 - I am struck by the similarity of Adam & Eve AND Jesus' Temptation
 - i. Satan says to Eve – ‘what did God really say?’
 - ii. You won't die – here take a bite – just a bite
 1. DOUBT GOD
 2. TRUST ME – take a bite – just a bite G O T C H A
 - iii. Satan says to Jesus - ‘You're hungry – come on - IF you are the Son of God
 - iv. Change the stone to bread – take a bite – just a bite
 1. DOUBT GOD
 2. TRUST ME – take a bite – just a bite
 - He got Eve for a piece of fruit
 - He could've had JC for a loaf of bread
 - i. Don't be surprised if Satan starts YOUR temptation with your Carnal appetites
 - ii. It worked with Eve – BUT NOT JESUS
 - Jesus fights the temptation with scripture
 - i. One does not live on bread alone but on every word from the mouth of God
 - Satan says OK, I can play that game
 - i. IF you are the Son of God, throw yourself down – *for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you and with their hands will support you lest you dash your foot against a stone*
 1. Still IF – **putting doubt of His God-head out there**
 - ii. JC sticks with scripture – *Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord Your God to the test*
 1. **Not only refusing the temptation**
 2. **Affirming His God-head**
 - Satan now comes clean with goal of temptation in the first place
 - i. All these kingdoms will be yours if you worship me
 1. GOAL OF TEMPTATION
 2. ABANDON GOD
 - ii. JC “Get away Satan, for it is written *The Lord your God shall you worship, Him alone shall you serve*” The 1st commandment!
2. Jesus became man and experienced everything we do – even temptation
 - BUT DID NOT SIN
 - Did you notice that in the Garden of Eden in 1st reading there were 2 trees
 - i. Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
 - ii. Tree of Life
 - Adam and Eve at of the Tree of Knowledge
 - Jesus brings us to the Tree of Life – the cross
 - i. Through Jesus satan is defeated
 - ii. Here in the desert – all thru His ministry – ultimately on Calvary
 - iii. On Calvary Jesus is nailed to the Tree of Life – eternal life – for us.
 - iv. Satan will still try to tempt us, but he has been defeated, and we have life eternal