

1st Sunday of Lent Year B

1. **Grocer sees a boy tempted to steal an apple**

“Are you trying to steal my apples”

“No sir, I’m trying not to”

TEMPTATION, IT SEEMS, IS EVERYWHERE

The problem is not temptation – the problem is what we do with it.

2. **Today we hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert** - satan tempts Jesus, just like we are

SO - how do we fight temptation?

- When I think of Jesus being tempted in the desert it reminds me of that section in scripture that tells us to put on the armor of God in order to deal with the devil
  - Helmet of salvation      Breastplate of righteousness
  - Shod feet with gospel      Shield of faith
  - Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

**NB** – All are defensive weapons – except one –

“The sword of the spirit, the word of God” – Scripture

How sharp is your sword?

How well do you know your scripture?

(Explain the two swords **from the greek**)

When we deal with Satan – typically it’s hand to hand combat

- I also want to explain the shield (Explain the two shields **from greek**)
  - Head to toe & when all stood together it created a wall of defense

**NB – In the armor of God, the shield is our faith –**

We should be *covered* by faith – head to toe, like this shield

3. **So what does this mean for us?**

We are God’s People – and as such we encounter temptation, like Jesus.

Like Jesus – we have to struggle with satan –

Hand to hand, temptation by temptation, over and over again

We struggle with temptation – and fail.

HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?

Learn to use the sword of the Spirit – THE WORD – Spend time with Script and Prayer

4. **We also heard about God’s covenant with Noah – let me talk about covenant**

- God entered covenant with NOAH – with MOSES – with DAVID
- But Jesus brings a New Covenant
  - Covenant – NAME, CLOTHES, BLOOD – covered in the blood
  - Jesus brings a New Covenant – He looks at His hands and sees a covenant with US!
  - Jesus leaves the desert proclaiming:
    - “This is the time of fulfillment, repent, and believe in the Gospel”
    - As we start Lent He’s talking to us
    - Lent is **our** time of fulfillment – **our** time to repent, to change how we live.
    - Lent is **our** time to be faithful to the New Covenant

In the New Covenant we have a new piece of armor, Sacrament of Reconciliation – **Joy of Penance**

Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves to encounter the Risen Christ

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is a way to do this

When we have a visiting priest – seek him out! *Receive Forgiveness!*