

1st Sunday of Lent Year C

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

“Are you trying to steal my apples”

“No sir, I’m trying not to”

2. **Today we hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert**

The gospel shows Jesus being tempted, just like we are  
– it also show how he dealt with it

- This reminds me of that section in scripture that tells us to put on the armor of God in order to deal with the devil

It says we should put on the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, shod our feet with good news, & use the shield of faith  
& that we should use “The 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

Jesus deals with temptation by using scripture  
& Jesus is the master swordsman  
(Explain the two swords **from the greek**)

When we deal with Satan – typically its 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 defence
  - We come under attack as individuals and as Church
    - As individuals, its hand to hand, so the tool is the sword – scripture
    - As Church, it’s a wider battle so the tool is shield – faith
    - Right now – SEX SCANDAL, ATTACK ON MARRIAGE, RECONFIG
    - Do these attacks cause us to doubt our faith in Jesus?
      - Romans “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved” - This is our faith – the basic bedrock.
- Here’s the next thing – after Jesus overcomes the temptation
  - “He departed from him for a time”
  - Satan does not like defeat, he will return over & over again.

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 are not master swordsmen – we struggle with temptation – and fail.  
How do we become master swordsmen? Spending Time with Script.

But because Jesus defeated sin, we have victory.  
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 (Retreat Kids)