



Matthew 17:1-8 New Revised Standard Version

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written,

‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Notes: _____



“I can resist everything except temptation.” –Oscar Wilde

“No one is looking! Go ahead! Who will ever know? How much harm could one little peek, click, or touch do? It’s no big deal! You can always ask for forgiveness!” Sometimes, we can reason, justify, and convince ourselves right into sin. The flipside is that we NEVER have anything to do with it. Or so we think! It is always someone else’s fault and we find it difficult to fess up to our own shortcomings. The Lenten season invites us to take a different route by facing our sins, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities head on. Instead of making excuses or “passing the buck,” we must acknowledge our sinful tendencies and admit that we have need of a strength than is greater than our own. Yes, God will forgive us when we sin, but we need not place ourselves in those situations when/where God must bail us out.

1. Temptation shifts our focus from God to us.

2. Satan may distort reality, but we must decide our response.

3. Too often, we play “gentle” with temptation.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, temptation can refine my faith or ruin my future. Enable me to see it for what it truly is and equip me to stand firm in its presence. Amen.