

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



March 9, 2014

First Sunday of Lent

Lectionary: 22

Gospel [mt 4:1-11](#)

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "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 they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Spiritual Reflections

Right before today's Gospel, Jesus has just been baptized and He has heard the voice of the Father declare Him "To Be His Beloved Son." The three temptations of the devil seem all focused on getting Jesus to fear that He is not the Beloved Son and Jesus' responses are all responses that show that He does believe that He is the Father's Beloved Son. A good son does not badger his father with demanding more of the father than what the father has given. He trusts that what the father has given him is enough and so Jesus refuses to turn bread into stone. A good son does not test his father's love by placing himself in danger and so Jesus refuses to jump off the parapet. Finally a good son does align himself up with his father's enemies and so Jesus refuses to serve the devil.

Spiritual Questions

1. Do you believe that you are a Son or Daughter of God?
2. What do you think each of the temptations would look like in your life?
3. Do you believe that God will give you what you need?
4. Why is Satan so against Jesus?
5. How come only after the temptations did angels come and minister to Him?