

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL – PART I

Luke 4:3-4 “the devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.” But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone.’”

You are past hungry. You have not had anything to eat for forty days. That was Jesus’ situation in the wilderness. Did Jesus have the ability to command stones to turn into bread? Absolutely! Jesus, however, did not submit to the Devil’s suggestion. He knew there was a much greater issue at stake than His hunger. The Devil was tempting Jesus to listen to him and do what he suggested.

Bread! Who would think the Devil would try to tempt Jesus to sin through the suggestion of eating bread. Who would think the Devil would tempt you through the suggestion of overeating? Over consumption of alcohol? Telling a small untruth! Surely the Devil doesn’t mess with such common things. After all, many do these things so what is the big deal?

It wasn’t turning the stones into bread that was the critical nature of the Devil’s suggestion. It was his challenge to Jesus to prove He was the Son of God. “If you are the Son of God. . .” was the Devil’s preface to his suggestion to turn the stones into bread.

Remember the baptism of Jesus? The voice from heaven said Jesus was God’s Son. Jesus did not have to prove anything, especially to the Devil. If Jesus had obeyed the Devil’s suggestion, He would have submitted Himself to the Devil’s authority, just like you do when you sin. That is what a sin is. When you sin, you disobey a clear word of God and submit yourself to the enticing words of the Devil.

Overeating, over consumption of alcohol, telling a small untruth seemingly are things many people do so what is so wrong if you do them also. They are all sins because God has said you should live a pure life in thought, word and deed. “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8) Jesus lived a perfect pure life for you and died to pay the price for your impure thoughts, words and activities.

Prayer: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew in me a right spirit. (Psalm 51:10) Amen.

Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism's doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.

Help us Your holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn
In faith to You and to Your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live, Whom You baptized and so received.

Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.
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