

Saying “No” to Satan

(Psalm 25:1-10 and Mark 1:9-15, and Matthew 4:1-11)

The First Sunday of Lent always begins with Jesus being tempted by Satan in the desert or wilderness.

Three Common Temptations:

1. The first temptation is perhaps the most basic - the temptation to be full.
 - Why is hunger a temptation? Perhaps this temptation has nothing to do with eating.
 - The choice that all of us face is this: Will you believe in your appetite or will you believe in the faithfulness of God?
 - So, here’s the real question: If you were never hungry, would you love God and still be drawn to God?
 - It’s okay to be hungry and to never be full.
2. The other temptation Jesus faced had to deal with certainty.
 - All temptations you face have to deal with Satan trying to get you to forget that you belong to God and that you are beloved by God.
 - Satan told Jesus, “*If you are the Son of God... then throw yourself down.*” Then the devil quoted from (Psalm 91), “*He will command his angels to bear you up so you will not dash your foot against a stone.*” And Jesus responded by saying, “*Don’t put God to the test.*” He was quoting from (Deut. 6:16).
 - One of the greatest temptations that you will face is the temptation to be so certain about God’s love that you no longer need faith to believe.
3. The final temptation Jesus faced was power.
 - This one appealed to Jesus’ greatest desire - the longing to save the world.