

Commentary on the Gospel for Sun, Feb 26th 2023

Read: In Genesis, we hear about the first sin as the man and woman are tempted by the serpent to disobey God's command. Paul tells the Romans that this first sin brought death to humankind, death ultimately defeated by Jesus who brings forgiveness, grace, and salvation. In Matthew's Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus three times, but Jesus remains obedient to his Father.

Reflect: Sinning is turning away from God. We can turn away from God in our thoughts and in our actions, by doing things we know are wrong or by failing to do the things we know are right.

In the desert, Jesus is tempted to satisfy his physical desires, to seek power, and to test God's love. We face similar temptations. The culture encourages satisfying any desires we might have, without regard for God or others. Accumulating wealth, power, and influence is seen as a life goal. Doubting God's love and even his existence is seen as a mark of sophistication.

In the midst of these temptations, Jesus gives us the strength and grace to follow the path of life and he offers forgiveness when we stumble.

Pray: God, please forgive me for the times I have turned away from you and help me purify my heart.

Act: Make a nightly examination of conscience part of your routine.

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