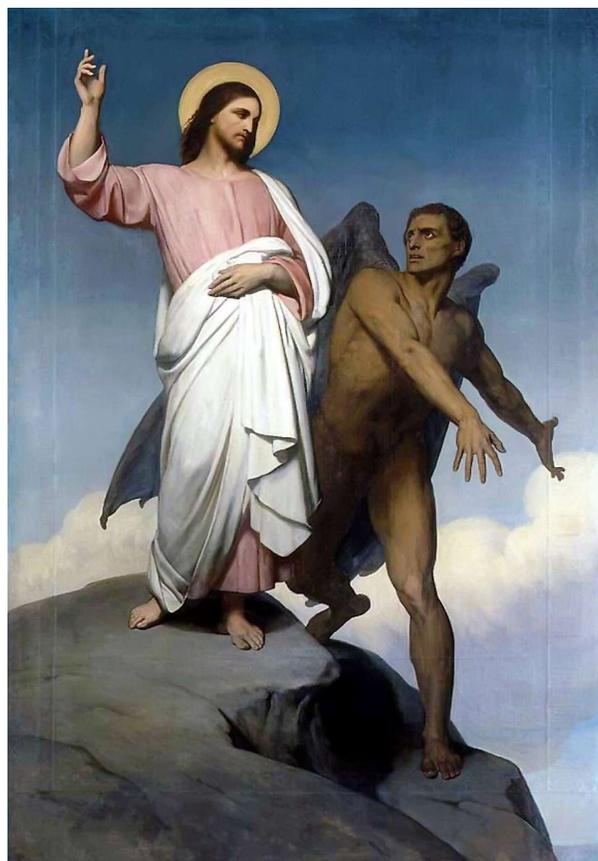


Bringing it Home For Sunday, February 22, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



In today's Bible story, the devil tempted Jesus.

Usually being tempted is about doing something bad. Stealing, or telling a lie, or cheating on a test. But the devil didn't want Jesus to do any of those things.

Eating when you're hungry is not a bad thing. Jesus could have made bread for himself, and no one would have been hurt.

Jumping off the Temple sounds scary, but the devil was right. God would have protected Jesus, and people would have known Jesus was special. He wouldn't have had to spend all that time walking all over Galilee and Judea healing people. He could have taught about God's Kingdom in Jerusalem, where all the important people lived.

As for worshipping the devil, that would definitely be a bad thing. But the devil was cheating! Jesus didn't need any permission from the devil to rule the world. He was the Son of God!

So why did Jesus reject everything the devil said?

He knew God had a plan for his life and his ministry. There were no shortcuts. To each temptation, Jesus replied by quoting from the Bible. And eventually the devil gave up. Jesus won!

We can win too, if we follow his example.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us we can resist temptations. Help us to remember your teachings and make good choices when we are tempted. Amen

Today's Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

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

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

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

Artwork: "The Temptation of Christ" (1854), by Dutch artist Ary Scheffer (1795-1858). From the collection of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK.