



If you are a son of God

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit
into the wilderness to be tempted
by the devil.” – Matthew 4:1



The Lord in the Wilderness



- Temptation will follow Baptism
 - “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” (Lk. 4:13)
- It is imperative we learn to fast
 - “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Matt. 17:21)

We are sons of God

- “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” (Lk. 20:34-36)
- “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14)



Temptation 1: Stone to Bread

- Satan was unsure if the Lord Christ was the Son of God, so he tempted Him as a man.
- *“By eating we were conquered in Adam, by abstinence we conquer in Christ.”* (St. Cyril of Alexandria)
- Satan will make use of our hardships, weaknesses, and misfortunes to attack us.



Temptation 1: Stone to Bread

- We were created “very good” and in the image of God
 - “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” (Jam. 1:14-15)
- How do we survive without sin?
 - “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Lk. 4:4)
 - Being in His Presence

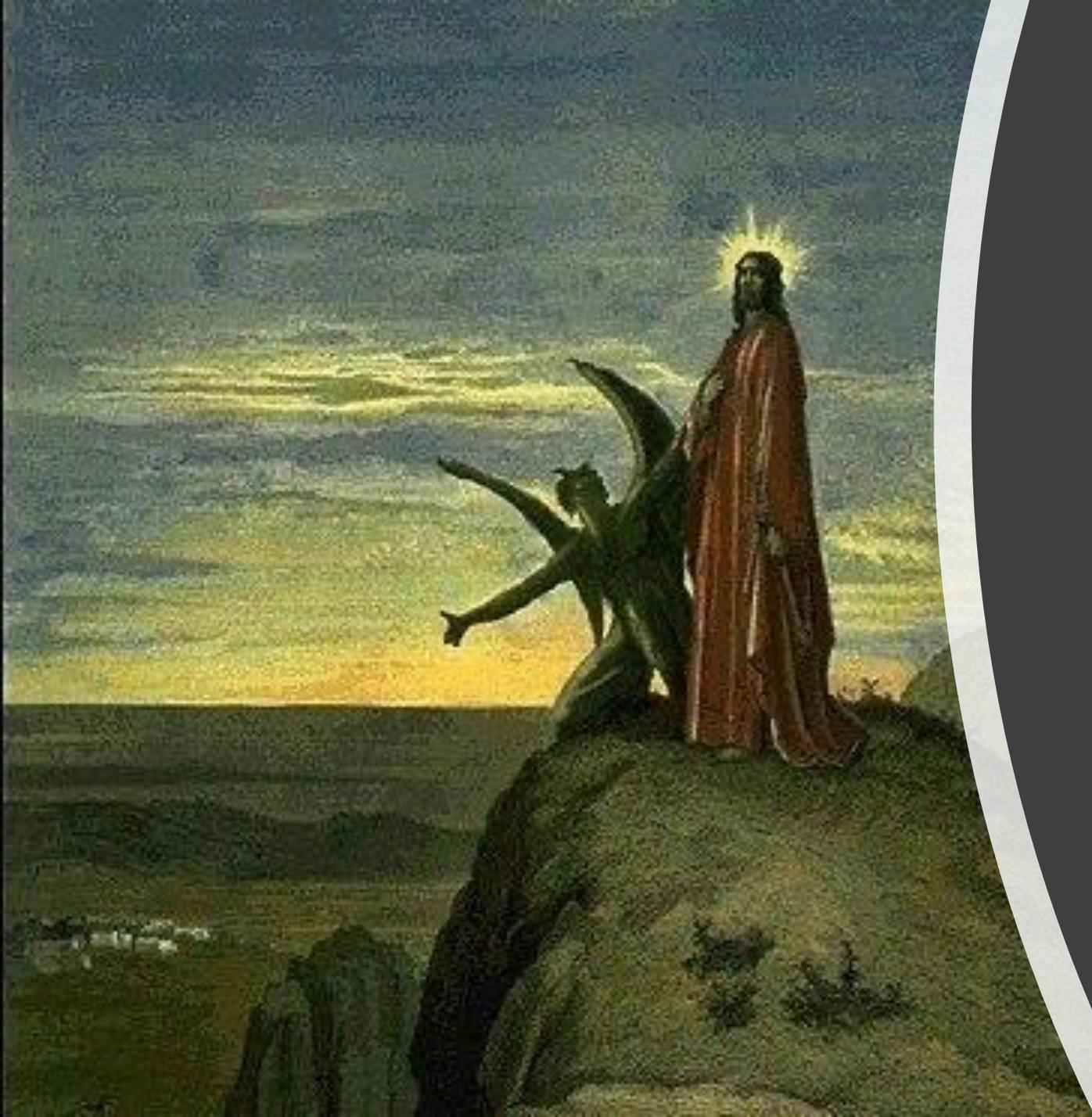


Temptation 2: The Pinnacle of the Temple

- For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” (Matt. 4:6, Ps. 91:11,12)
- As sons of God, we ought not to test the Lord
 1. In His deliverance
 - EX: Lot in Sodom

Temptation 2: The Pinnacle of the Temple

- As sons of God, we ought not to test the Lord
 1. In His deliverance
 2. In boasting of our liberty
- “Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.”
(Rom. 14:20-21)
- “Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.” (1 Cor. 8:13)



Temptation 3: The High Mountain

- He attempts to entice the Lord with authority (power) and glory (praise)
- Satan is promising to give that which he does not truly possess
- The sons of God are not fooled by these empty promises



Temptation 3: The High Mountain

- EX: Solomon
- **“Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.” (Ecc. 2:10-11)**