

The readings for the first Sunday of Lent are about temptation, sin and righteousness. Jesus was tempted, Adam and Even introduced sin and Christ brought about righteousness.

Scripture says, as the first temptation of Christ "*the tempter approached*". After the last temptation, Jesus said "*Go away Satan*". Do all temptations come from Satan or his minions? Possibly! But they usually follow our own inclinations, desires and habits.

The devil may not talk to (tempt) us directly, but he can heighten our desires or inclinations to please ourselves first, usually at the expense of others.

Temptations do not start off like the blatant ones offered Jesus. But they are directed to each of us individually as they were with Jesus. Especially with some truth in it "*If you are the Son of God*". The devil is saying to Jesus "*If you are the son of God*" prove it by these paltry acts. They would seem to be acts of pride proving His identity.

Our temptations are not usually the external ones like those posed to Jesus. They are more internal like to last temptation of Jesus. How could Satan physically show Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth from a mountain top? He had to show Jesus them internally.

And so, we are often tempted internally to pride, anger, selfishness, greed and the like.

In the story of the first sin of disobedience, even though Scripture says the serpent spoke to the woman and the woman answered, the man was there also as scripture says, "*her husband was with her*". He must have heard the same words, gave his consent as did the woman for "*he ate it*" as well.

It is not as if the serpent tempted the woman and the woman tempted the man. Both heard and both consented and both sinned.

Genesis seems to put the blame first on the woman. But in Paul's letter to the Romans it says, "*Through one man sin entered the world.*"

In fact, our first parents were led astray by the insidious promises of the tempter. "*You certainly will not die.*" "*Your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know what is good and what is evil.*"

Their pride got the better of them and they wanted to be like gods. They certainly got to know what is good and what is evil in their lives.

Pride and self interest cause most of our difficulties. How difficult it is for anyone to learn humility.

Without humility, the tempter will find easy prey,