



Scripture Nugget – More than conquerors

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry. The tempter approached and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” He said in reply, “It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:1-4).

The first temptation of Christ in the desert. The devil is cunning and always chooses the moment when we are at our weakest to tempt us. Thus, when Jesus was famished after having fasted for forty days and forty nights, Satan tempted Jesus to turn the stones into bread. However, Satan went away defeated when Jesus proclaimed the truth: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God (cf. Matthew 4:4). In forgetting about His bodily needs, but by focusing on His mission and on defeating Satan, Jesus gained for us graces for overcoming temptations of the flesh.

The second temptation of Christ. Then Satan took Jesus to the roof of the Temple in Jerusalem and made Him stand on the parapet and tempted Him to throw Himself down to prove that God would send His angels to support Him as is written in Scripture. Satan was testing the humility of Jesus. But he was defeated when Jesus answered him: *Again it is written: You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test (Matthew 4:7).* Jesus did not fall into the temptation to prove to Satan that God His Father would protect Him. Through the humility of Jesus, the hold of Satan over arrogant souls is weakened. Through the humiliation He endured during His time on earth, Christ merited for us all the graces needed to overcome human pride, a great obstacle to our salvation.

The third temptation of Christ. After the second temptation, Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him the world and its glory and said all these would be His if He would fall down and worship him! *At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve (Matthew 4:10).* At the proclamation of this truth, Satan went away defeated. Jesus has broken the bondage over souls from the allure of worldly treasures and riches, and the false promises of Satan.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You come to set captives free. You give us the greatest freedom – freedom from our sins and its eternal consequences. Every suffering and temptation You endured during Your time on earth are for the benefit of souls so that we will be given every grace we need to overcome any obstacle to our salvation. In You alone we are more than conquerors (cf. Romans 8:37). Though our fallen human nature is weak, and we oftentimes end up doing the things which we did not wish to do, the power of Your grace works in us mightily so that at the end of our life, with St Paul, we can say with confidence: “I have run the good race, I have persevered and am now going forward to receive my everlasting crown of glory.” Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.