

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 10, 2019  
“Jesus, Our Mentor”

Dt 26:4-10  
Rom 10:8-13  
Lk 4:1-13

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Every normal human being wants to be a success in some area or another. We want to succeed in school, in sports, at our job or profession – and in our particular vocation of marriage, being single, or in religious ministry. But most of all, we should want to succeed at being a fully developed human person. Because if we are a success as a human person, then everything else will fall into place.

Unfortunately, we always experience problems when we try to escape our basic human development by taking shortcuts. And we always pay a great price when we lose our way! Consequently, if we are wise, we look to a mentor who can help us and guide us in our endeavors. We, likewise, attempt to emulate those who, themselves, have been successful at what we are trying to do or become!

Of course, the best mentor and most perfect example of a human being is Jesus himself. Jesus handled everything in his life in the best way possible. Moreover, with our faith, we know that Jesus continues to work with us on our journey. He also provides his Holy Spirit to speak in the depths of our heart and soul.

Today, the Gospel of Luke teaches us that after John the Baptist pointed out Jesus at the Jordan River, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. There, in the desert, Jesus prayed and reflected upon his future work and ministry.

While he was there, satan tried to dissuade Jesus from his mission and from his total orientation to the Father – as well as to the Father’s will and plan for him!

The three temptations of Jesus are the basic temptations that we all have to face during our life project. The first, is to take shortcuts in order to satisfy our basic human needs and desires. Our hunger for food and our desire for the pleasures of human intimacy, must always be satisfied according to God’s laws and plan. Moreover, they will always require a certain amount of sacrifice and self-denial.

The second temptation is to place wealth and power before God and thus become a worshipper of Satan himself. We can have the wrong approach to material success. We can place our profession or work above and before our family life – or even before our time for worship of God. We can harm others in our attempt to be “first” or “the best” – all the while failing as a human being!

The third temptation that Jesus experienced was that of glory, honor, and acclaim. It was also an attempt to have Jesus force the Father to do the will of Jesus. For our part, we must always strive to do God’s will, in God’s way, and in God’s providential time. It can’t and must never be the other way around!

Certainly, one of the ways to keep us in our proper stance before God is to remember all that God has done for us. This is what Moses commanded the Chosen People to do once they entered and took possession of the Promised Land. They were to remember the past by bringing their history forward. Then, they were to offer to God the first fruits of their labor every year without fail. In this way, they would always keep their worship of God before themselves and before the generations that succeeded them.

Brothers and Sisters, Lent is the annual time for our personal and community 40 days in the wilderness. It is a time to be led by the Holy Spirit and take a hard look at the important things in our lives. It’s far too easy just to give up something under the pretense of doing something for God. But what we really must do is ask ourselves what does God really want from us?

What does God expect from me from now on as a husband, wife, priest, son, daughter, boss, employee, teacher, or student? What must I do now so that the future will evolve according to God’s plan? Above all, what must I do to be the human person that God created me to be as His son or daughter?

These are all questions we must ask of ourselves. But ask them and answer them, we must!

So, let us pray, that we will make the time each day for some quiet reflection to discern all that God wishes us to be and become. And may we always be led by the Holy Spirit as we follow Jesus our mentor!

Amen.

March 10, 2019

Msgr. Russell G. Terra