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The devil wanted human beings to continue to move away from God, and so wanted to prevent Jesus from saving them. He realized that after fasting, Jesus was hungry and found it as an opportune time to test Him. He wanted Jesus to forget about His purpose of coming into the world; to work miracles for the people to accept Him as the Messiah, and to prefer wealth and riches to worshipping God. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus focused on what He came to do. The devil distorted the word of God in order to deceive Jesus, but He corrected him using the same word of God.

St. Paul reminds us that through one man sin enters the world and that led to death, and through Jesus, salvation and life are experienced by those who will believe in Him.

Moreover, the temptation does not come from God but by our evil desires. This is what St. James makes us aware of. "Never, when you have been tempted, say, God sent the temptation; God cannot be tempted to do anything wrong, and He does not tempt anybody. Everyone who is tempted is attracted and seduced by his own wrong desire" (Jm.1:13&14). So, I cannot put blame on anyone when I fail the test, as Adam and Eve did.

Sometimes, we fail to overcome temptations because we think that we are strong enough to resist them. But St. Paul has these messages for us, a warning and an assurance: "The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall. The trials that you have had to bear are no more than people normally have. You can trust God not to let you be tried beyond your strength, and with any trial He will give you a way out of it and the strength to bear it" (1Cor.10:12-13).

The temptation of Jesus did not end when the devil left Him. He experienced trials again in different ways. Some came through His own disciples who did not want Him to suffer. He even told Peter that he was an obstacle in His path; (Mt.16:21-23). This is a reminder that trials can come to us from different angles including those who are close to us. Am I a source of trial for others? Do I lead others into sin?

## February 25/26, 2023

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