

Self examination. For me, lent is about self examination. The 40 days of Lent are connected to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. He was tormented by everything that the world and the devil had to offer. And yet through it all, Jesus resisted those temptations and put his trust in God.

During our journey through lent, we have an opportunity to look at ourselves and those things that tempt us. In our gospel, we read, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

As we look at our relationship with God, God should be the greatest and most important part of our life. But all too often, there are things that pull us away from HIM. We want or desire something else that knocks God down a step or two on our priority list.

As you look at yourself, what is most important to you? What do you focus on and are willing to drop everything for or give anything for? If God is not the answer to these questions, then whatever you list has the power to turn you away from God. That is your temptation to give up God.

Just so you are not fooling yourself, there are times where each of us gives in to temptation and turns our back on God because we are all sinners. When we sin, we are giving in to temptation. We are putting whatever that sin is above God.

Sometimes we struggle with these temptations and try really hard not to give in to them but end up failing in the end. And then there are other times where we sin without really thinking about it. Before we even realize what is happening, we sin against God.

Temptation is a daily part of our life and each of us has things that tend to pull us away from God. Those things that tug at us are our temptations and they do try to knock God down on our priority list. When we give in to them, then they are successful because the whole purpose of temptations is to get us to turn from God.

The things that are in your heart are the things that you are devoted to. There are times where God is the number 1 thing in our life. But we must also be honest with ourselves and admit that there are also times where God is not the most important for us. Only once we admit that are we able to work at returning God to the place HE belongs in us.

As we begin our Lenten journey, continue to examine your heart and determine what is most important for you. There are times where God is first. But what about those times when HE is not. What is most important to you then?