

- The devil offered Jesus three different opportunities. Jesus turned down each of these three opportunities: First, to turn stones into bread. However, later Jesus turns water into wine and turns two fish and five loaves of bread into a feast to feed 5,000 people. Second, to let the angels protect him from a bad fall. However, later Jesus is protected from stormy seas and is kept dry while walking on water. Third, to be given the kingdoms of the world. However, later we learn from Revelations 11, that “He shall reign forever and ever” over all of the kingdoms of the world.

Why are these three different opportunities interpreted as three temptations?

- If Jesus had positively responded to any of the three temptations, would that have been a sin? Why or why not?
- Which of these is the best way for you to complete this sentence: When the devil could not tempt Jesus, we learn that
 - Jesus is worthy to be called the Son of God
 - Jesus knows God’s will and way to be in ministry with humanity.
 - Jesus proves that the devil is not the agent of God.
 - Jesus knows a lot of scripture and can think quickly on his feet.
 - the devil cannot truly tempt Jesus.
- Does a test or a temptation strengthen or weaken your faith?



*Touching heaven, changing earth
with head, heart and hands*

**Sunday, March 5, 2017
Matthew 4:1-11**

We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself, or discuss them with friends. Many small groups use them for discussion; if you would like to participate in a group, visit www.laumc.org/grouplife.

- In today’s scripture lesson, Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. In the story of the Exodus, the children of Israel traveled in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land. In Exodus 34:28, Moses fasted for forty days as he wrote the 10 Commandments on the tablets. Currently, we are in the first week of a 40-day Lenten season of meditation, penitence, and prayer.

What is the significance of a 40 day period?

- This is how long it takes to get God’s attention and my attention.
- This is a sign that something extraordinary and holy is about to take place.
- This is a signal that we should get ready to receive a holy gift from God.

