

Luke 4:1-13

The Christian discipline of fighting temptation is not about self-hatred, or rejecting parts of our God-given humanity. It is about celebrating God's gift of full humanity and, like someone learning a musical instrument, discovering how to tune it and play it to its best possibility. At the heart of our resistance to temptation is love and loyalty to the God Who has already called us His beloved children in Christ, and Who holds out before us the calling to follow Him in the path which leads to the true glory. In that glory lies the true happiness, the true fulfillment, which neither world, not flesh, nor devil can begin to imitate (N.T. Wright, 2004).

Faithfulness is consecration in overalls. It is the steady acceptance and performance of the common duty and immediate task without any reference to personal preferences—because it is there to be done and so is a manifestation of the Will of God. The fruits of the Spirit get less and less showy as we go on. Faithfulness means continuing quietly with the job we have been given, in the situation where we have been placed; not yielding to the restless desire for change. It means tending the lamp quietly for God without wondering how much longer it has got to go on (Evelyn Underhill, 1942).

March Discipleship:

To whom will you end a note of encouragement? How will we walk through wilderness in community?

Wilderness can be a place of growth, restoration, and unexpected provision. As we walk into this Lenten wilderness, let's journey together, expecting God to provide, and nourish our very souls.

How is God providing for you in the wilderness?

Next week: *Luke 13:31-35, Second Sunday of Lent*

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Lent Week One

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16*

Monday: *Luke 22:24-30*

Tuesday: *Isaiah 41:8-10*

Wednesday: *Luke 16:10-13*

Thursday: *Matthew 12:15-21*

Friday: *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

Saturday: *John 15:12-16*

Take, Lord, and receive from me—all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will—all
that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me.
Lord, I return it all to You. Everything is Yours; do with
it what You will. Give me only Your love and Your grace.

This is enough for me. Amen.

From the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

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