

Who does this describe? Someone "Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound." Yes, Superman. Today, Jesus chooses NOT to be a Superman, and he still DEFEATS the devil's temptations, with His KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

He didn't HAVE to go through all the devil's temptations, but He CHOSE to, first, to win for us the ability to DEFEAT the devil's temptations in our own lives; second, to teach us how to DEFEAT those temptations: with our KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

In the early comics, Superman could CHANGE his face or body to look like someone else. In this Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus to be a Superman, to use His Divine Power to CHANGE stones into bread. Jesus chooses NOT to.

How does Jesus DEFEAT the devil's temptation? By using His KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD. He quotes Scripture, saying, *"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

One of our parish family members was praying on today's Gospel, and this line stuck out to him. It reminded him of bread in the Old Testament, the Manna. Today, Jesus compares bread to the Word of God. At the Last Supper, He will give us the New Manna, the Eucharist. But the Word of God, the Scripture, is itself a form of bread or spiritual food that feeds us, and strengthens us to DEFEAT temptations.

In the comics, Superman could JUMP over high buildings. In this Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus to be a Superman, to use His Divine Power to JUMP... off a high building, the temple. Jesus chooses NOT to.

How does Jesus DEFEAT the devil's temptation? By using His KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD. He quotes Scripture, saying, *"You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."*

Superman had telepathic abilities, mind-control. He could enter another person's mind and TAKE CONTROL of them! In the Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus to be a Superman, to use His Divine Power to TAKE CONTROL of the world. He could've taken control of the president in every country! Satan says, you can take control of the world IF... you worship me.

How does Jesus DEFEAT the devil's temptation? By using KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD, by quoting, *"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."*

Again, Jesus chose to go through the temptations, so he could DEFEAT them for our sake, first of all, to win for us the ability to DEFEAT the devil's temptations in our own lives; second, to TEACH us HOW to DEFEAT those temptations: with our KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

In the Pflaum "Gospel at Home" sheet sent home to parents, you who are parents were asked to discuss choices with your kids. If you have a family calendar, you were encouraged to discuss adding some Lenten activities the whole family can

do together. Some of the suggestions are: Go to a weekday Mass together; Pray a family rosary; Give something to the needy; etc.

I'd like to focus on one suggestion: to review today's Gospel story; then, to talk about the many temptations we face in today's world, at school, at work, at the store, on TV, on our phones, etc.; then, to discuss how to help one another DEFEAT temptations in our lives.

By the way, every Christian should discuss their temptations with at least one other person. Scripture says, "confess your sins to one another." If we keep our temptations and sins secret, we're doing exactly what the devil wants us to. When we discuss them with someone else, we are bringing them out of the darkness and into the light. A study showed that rooms exposed to light... had about half the disease-causing bacteria found in rooms that were kept in darkness!

Whether you're a child and you discuss your temptations with your parents or with your priest, or whether you're an adult and you discuss them with a spouse, a friend, or a priest in the sacrament of Reconciliation, discussing them is the first step to DEFEATING them.

This Lent, I invite all of us, young and old, to two practices that DEFEAT temptations in our lives: **First practice**, discussing them with another person; **Second practice**, growing in our KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

To do that, we have to read it and pray with it every day! Not just once a week. Some people use a bible app; this is good! But even BETTER: use a "special book" that's dedicated to the Word of God and doesn't have ANY distractions built into it, like a phone does: that special book is called THE BIBLE!

The **Third** practice I invite you to do, not young kids, but older kids and adults: carry your personal bible with you EVERYWHERE you go. Read a verse or two at various times throughout the day. Read a verse or two at breakfast and before you go to bed. Or, if you don't carry, at least keep it on your passenger seat, read a verse or two every time you park at your destination, before you get out of the vehicle. Read the verse out loud to whoever is in your vehicle!

What if you leave your bible behind? Well, when you leave your wallet or purse at home, and realize you forgot it, what do you do? You go back and get it. When leave your cell phone somewhere, what do you do? You go back and get it. When you leave your kids behind somewhere, what do you do? 😊

This Lent, I will be carrying this bible [SHOW] with me everywhere, to read it throughout the day, and grow in my KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD. If you catch me without it, I will give you a gift card to Emma's Cafe in Bad Axe [SHOW]. So, this Lent, I am going to defeat the devil's temptations in MY life, **First**: by discussing them with another person; **Second**, by growing in my KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD, by carrying it with me and reading every day. Will you join me?

ANNOUNCE:

- Cornhole Tournament for middle and high school, Good Shepherd parish center, Sunday at 2pm- Prizes! Afterwards, free dinner provided by our Knights, and then PLEASE STAY for the Youth Group meeting
- Pro-life teen rally Sunday, March 12th in Sandusky, if interested in a carpool, contact Catherine Brinkman.
- Mass Journals: feel free to take notes anytime during Mass! I have heard some are worried about using the Mass Journals. Don't! It's a great example for others who aren't using them yet!
- Soup & Spirituality: You're invited to encounter Jesus in fellowship, and grow in your spiritual life, Every Thursday in March: 5:30pm: Soup & bread (Parish Center) Then a new video series called: "Fearless", to accompany your Lenten journey, featuring Catholic Evangelist Chris Stefanick, then at 7:00pm, Stations of the Cross at our St. John site
- Ashes if you didn't receive