

A few years ago I was watching the game show One versus One Hundred. The gentleman who was in the position of the one had successfully built up a cash prize of \$118,000 and he had to make a decision: Should he take the money he had collected and walk, or should he stay and take on the remnant of the hundred people he was playing against. He had a guaranteed \$118,000 but the temptation was to stay and try to make more money.

Temptation is all around us. It pulls at our sleeve and whispers in our ear all the time. Even Jesus was taunted by Satan while he struggled in the desert for forty days. Jesus withstood the test and stayed obedient to God. In all three temptations Jesus was challenged to do something that on the surface appeared to be good. In each case the temptation had to do with how Jesus should use his divine power for immediate self satisfaction and prove that he was

God's beloved Son.

In each case Jesus refused and stayed true to the divine will of his Father. Jesus did not have to prove who he was. His life and ministry, his death and resurrection would accomplish that. He trusted in the ways of his Father and instead focused his attention on his earthly journey.

As we enter this season of Lent the church encourages us to take some desert time. The hope is that by spending time in the wilderness we will delve into the activities of solitude and prayer; to slow down and in the quiet evaluate our relationship with God and his plan for us. To accomplish this we need to reorganize our calendars and our day planners in order to set aside the space.

None of us needs a lot of time to do this; often we can start with 10 or 15 minutes of quiet, a window of solitude

when we shut off the social media, the tv, the computer and the phone. We could create a space in our house or room and sit or lie down and let God's presence envelop us. It might also be good for us to keep a journal of our thoughts and our prayers.

Lent is an excellent time to follow Jesus' example and be led by the Spirit into some desert moments. We can take a good look at ourselves in the mirror of contemplation and see the image of God that is in us. We can be encouraged in our struggles and know that no matter how many temptations swarm around us, we do have the power to say No and journey in the way that God has laid out for us.

By the way, the contestant on the game show One versus One Hundred chose to keep playing and he lost the \$118,000. Temptation is nothing to mess with and that is why God's direction is important in our life.