

I ask Jesus, who was tempted like me, for the grace not to try to escape from the limitations of my human condition but rather, like him, to live it with faith and trust in God.

In my own words, what I ask is . . .



After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.
-Luke 4:13

Reading

Brackley – 13. Expanding the Soul pp. 109-124

This long, brilliant chapter introduces some important qualifications to our understanding of terms in “The Two Standards” like *humility* --a very important read.’

Creighton – 20. The Temptations in the Desert pp. 177-182

Suggestions

The German Catholic theologian J. B. Metz (1928-) interprets all three of Jesus’ temptations as temptations to try to escape from his limited, needy condition as a human being (*Poverty of Spirit* [Paulist, 1968; rev. transl. 1998]).

Ponder our own human condition: we tend to *fear* not having enough and this is the root of our human sinfulness --- rather than to trust in God and God’s care for us.

Talk to Jesus about the human condition that we share with him. What are some of the ways you try to escape the limited human condition? Ask for healing and the grace to trust God like Jesus did.

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11—the basic text for “The Temptations of Jesus”

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Summary of the week: I am imperfect, like Jesus

Journaling: What do I want to hold on to?

Group Meeting: What do I want to bring to the group?