

## Lent 1A - 2023

There's the old line about when God confronted Adam and Eve with their misbehavior and Adam pointed to Eve and said, "The woman made me do it." Eve pointed to the snake and said, "The snake made me do it." And, of course, the snake didn't have a leg to stand on!

### Just have a beer:

A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. What are you going to give up?"

His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor." Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."

### God's Testing

As the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, an elaborate trestle bridge was built across a large canyon in the West. Wanting to test the bridge, the builder loaded a train with enough extra cars and equipment to double its normal payload. The train was then driven to the middle of the bridge, where it stayed an entire day. One worker asked, "Are you trying to break this bridge?" "No," the builder replied, "I'm trying to prove that the bridge won't break." In the same way, the temptations Jesus faced weren't designed to see if He would sin, but to prove that He couldn't. (from *Today in the Word*)

### "Run, D.J., run!"

William H. Hinson tells about an amusing article that appeared in his local paper. Over the past several years in Houston, Texas there has been a rash of incidents in which dogs have attacked small children. As a result, the newspapers have run several stories about the attacks some of which have been pretty gruesome. There was one, however, involving a little boy called D.J. that was not so tragic. A reporter asked D.J. how he managed to come away from a recent dog attack unharmed. You can almost picture the serious expression on the little guy's face as he said, "Well, right in the middle of the attack, the Lord spoke to me." "Oh, really?" asked the reporter, "And what did God say?" "He said, 'Run, D.J., run!'" the young man reported. [William

H. Hinson, *Reshaping the Inner You* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988).] — There may have been times in your life in which God has whispered, "Run, Jim, run!" Or "Run, Sally, Run!" This is a particularly valuable message when we are tempted by the devil.(Rev. King Duncan) (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

**"All right, Mom! But please do not look."**

A young mother wanted to quit smoking. She knew it was bad for her health and the people around her. For her, it had been a vicious cycle of quitting and restarting. Each relapse was inflicting a heavier toll on her body and self-esteem. One tension-filled day, while on a busy run to do the shopping, the urge to light up a cigarette was overpowering. Without knowing why, she pleaded to her three-year old son, seated beside her on the car's front seat, to do something.

He answered with disarming seriousness, "All right, Mom! But please do not look." She peeked anyway. The little boy was bowing his head in prayer, with the palms of his hands joined. — The mother knew that she could not betray the faith of her praying son. The desire for a cigarette left her. From then on, she had more strength to cope with her weakness. Her little son had helped her to overcome temptation and addiction. (Lectio Divina). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

**Tutu's Tolerance**

In the midst of South Africa's struggle against apartheid, one of the most respected voices for racial harmony and human dignity has been that of Bishop Desmond Tutu. But even the closest colleagues of Tutu are sometimes distressed by the bishop's tolerance and moderation. They wish he would be more aggressive with his opponents. One of them said, "At his age you'd think he would have learned to hate a little more. But there is this problem with Tutu: he believes literally in the gospel."

What he was saying, in effect, is that Tutu knows **who he is, remembers his baptism.** He knows the gospel story, and he will not change the script.

(by Thomas G. Long from *Whispering the Lyrics*, CSS Publishing Company)