

Sermon Notes: Feb 22, 2026

[Lectionary Readings](#)

Focus: Beginning of Lent | Wisdom

Wisdom is about timing and patience. In the readings we have the Genesis story of Adam and Eve - *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened.*

Much of the Bible turns on this short story. Humanity was communing with God pure and naïve in the Garden of Eden. Then because of this duo's actions we are all separated from God in corruption. Most of the Bible is a tragedy dedicated to the challenge of finding communion while struggling with corruption. The Christian resolution of this tension is the advent of Jesus, who bridges humanity and God. Finally, his resurrection and spirit continues the story today - a mixed tragedy and triumph.

I like "wisdom" and find myself sympathizing with Adam and Eve. God said to them, there is a big red button in the garden. DON'T push it. Just like Prometheus stole fire and had an eternity of his liver being pecked out - Adam and Eve and the generations after would toil and suffer for this indiscretion.

This is me pondering: The big-red-Garden-of-Eden button *could* have been pushed without misery. We could have been wise like God. If with patience and trust in God's timing we, Adam and Eve could trust that God is shaping us for greater revelation, greater insight.

Jesus is the standard for this trust filled preparation. He was wise and waited for greater wisdom. He prepared, and at the right time would do all the things the devil was suggesting in the Gospel reading today. Jesus was asked three questions by El Diablo:

Hungry? God would sustain Jesus forever and he did not need to make a sandwich for himself or the devil. He knew that 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' He could wait while preparing for more capacity like feeding 1000's with bread,

Want indestructible holiness? The devil wanted him to do a trust fall. And challenged Jesus to a jumping contest. Eventually that drop would come. He would be killed, raised, drawn into heaven and come back. But not at this moment of temptation to perform. So for now he says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Want agency to help the world? The devil wanted Jesus to be second-in-charge. Eventually Jesus would be the Lord of Eternity, just not at that moment. He was content worshipping in the desert with humility. "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him." Even later than today, like in Revelation he will be encircled in worship

At the end of Matthew, the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Jesus. He prepared, waited, served and ultimately would fulfill all these early "temptations" because he knew God was right on time. We can prepare, knowing that Eden's wisdom and the Spirit's peace come in God's good timing. **Todd**