

*The Splitter*

Lent

[Luke 4:1-13](#)

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**REFLECTION**

Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, during which he was tempted by the devil, helps us to frame and understand Lent. Like Jesus, we too are called to reflect on the parts of ourselves and the world which are in opposition to what God intends. **What has been your experience with belief in the devil?**

The name "devil" comes from a Greek word meaning to split or divide. Whether divided in our relationships, political systems, or between countries, the work of the splitter is always on the move (V. 13). During those 40 days, the temptations Jesus faced weren't necessarily bad things (V. 4), but rather ways to split and divide the persons of the Trinity. Led by the Spirit, Jesus refused to have the will of the Father split from the actions of the Son. **When have you noticed the devil splitting your relationships, or dividing you from God's purpose for your life?**

The majority of Americans do not believe in the devil, and consequently, we don't talk about it enough. The unity of body of Christ is key in the fight against him and does not mean we have to agree on everything. Consider the following resources we have been given to dwell within the call of God's will on our lives. **What practices do you need commit to within each of these areas?**

**Reconciled:** combat the forces opposed to what God is doing through love and forgiveness

**Know the Word:** Jesus responds to the devil with scripture rather than his own opinion, so should we

**Fast:** What can you give up in order to open yourself to the presence of God?

You're invited to take one day this week and fast during daylight hours. Use the time you would normally eat to pray: **1)** holding out your specific needs to God and asking for His will, and **2)** praying the Lord's prayer and seeing what God puts on your heart.