



Jesus was a man on a mission. A mission for others.

BY RALPH MCCLOUD

At the beginning of Lent, we can think about the temptations faced by Jesus in the desert.

Jesus was a man on a mission. A mission for others.

“Command that these stones become loaves of bread!”

Satan threw down a challenge to Jesus. He wanted Jesus to withdraw from others, to think only about himself and his hunger, and to give in to distraction.

“The devil took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, ... ‘throw yourself down!’”

Satan threw down another challenge. He wanted Jesus to turn away from it all, to despair, to give up and to throw in the towel.

“Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence...”

Finally, Satan challenged Jesus to put himself above others.

Jesus said “no, no and no.” He put his mission for others front and center. “Get away, Satan!” In the desert, Jesus discovered hunger. He discovered dependence. He discovered his humanity.

But he didn’t turn away. He didn’t run away. He knew he was born to sit with us. To eat with us. To walk with us. To suffer with us. To lead us out of temptation and on the road to redemption, together.

Jesus was not ashamed of us or our flesh. No, he took it on and became our brother. He did it to make us one; one with him and each other.

During Lent, we can rediscover Jesus our brother in the flesh. We can reconnect with our hunger, with our dependence, with our need for Jesus and one another.

The [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) walks with people throughout the country on the road to healing and wholeness. CCHD connects people to people to overcome hunger, division and

injustice. You can get involved. Commit to learn, pray, act and walk with your neighbor this Lent by connecting with CCHD.

In our prayer, fasting and charity over these 40 days, remember what Pope Francis said, that the most difficult fasting is to bend over and hug a wounded person. When we’re afflicted with the temptation to turn away from others, with the temptation to throw in the towel or to sit in judgment of our brothers and sisters, take a cue from Jesus this Lent—*Get away, Satan!*

For more on how to get involved in the work of the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#), visit www.povertyusa.org and www.pobrezausa.org. Also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!



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