

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Feb - 24 1980

1st Sunday in Lent: -Temptation's opportune time.

Several of us have been reading snatches of Linda Erving's new book which is a commentary on The New Testament.
New Testament: - Basic Elements are made up of
 a Roman Catholic Creation

gives out of liturgical references of the
 Vatican Council I + II

First Time: - introduction to the process whereby
 a history is created.

Further → Declaration - what they had in
 mind in making the selection they did.

- Gospel Reading - the cycle for the Sunday of Lent.

Fore-shadows -	} <u>passions</u>	{ suffering
- Model -		

TEMPTATION!

MINIATURE GOSPEL - says it all

The way the story is told

Jesus, Returning From Baptism →

H.S. descended upon him - wilderness
 to be tempted.

- H.S. - led - (MK Drives) into wilderness
 - to be tempted

Sits a little Shazals
alongside their places in ^{or} Lord's Prayer
"lead us not into temptation"

What ever can we make of that?

c.f. closing of Episode 6 Luke

- when the devil had ended every temptation
he left him until an opportune time

What could be a more opportune time?

→ just heard the words -

"You are my beloved Son
in whom I am well
pleased"

Temptations come at opportune times / /

Luke's intention:

not just ironical →

words of God speak
lead son
into temptation

Necessary →

Crucial: - Distinctions get made

← Distinctions tested

not enough - Son of God: →

what that Sonship means: -

what it, calls for: -

- if son of God - stone to bread
feeding the hungry - isn't the whole thing
- it can distort the whole
thing.

→ strange connection made with

an interpretation of the wilderness journey
of Israel

David's recollection in temptation -

reflection : -

Testing

a belly that's so hungry

a body that's so weak -

tho & their Father didn't know

ie a body that will what they didn't recognize as food at first

so they would know it takes the whole Word of God for their whole health

1. Your wants aren't your needs

2. By just a slight shift in what he allowed to be of ultimate concern →

he could turn up a roaring success → in terms of ensuing power & influence.

- if anything **But** God is let be God the outcome is disaster.

3 :- Luke to Third Temptations to include
→ curious element of the Davidic Son of Man
same for Matt →

again = Right at the centre of the Holy Stuff

Most crucial that destruction get made quite a bit more is going on than a contest to see who can out quote who in scripture
→ who's getting to the heart of it.

Stunts :

what identifies the Son of God

Stunts - I identify God's Saving Work
God's essence?

Something

won't be tested - identify what is really true. The one with whom all else has to do?

Put on trial

By its very nature →

analogous -

If I have to put you here
to the test →

NOT THERE

or I'm not accepting it

I'm not letting it be as
matter to me

MODEL : - WHOLE GOSPEL →

WHEN MOST IS AT STAKE →

DISTINCTIONS MATTER MOST

Time of Tempting - Time of Every Day of the Spirit

GOOD News in That

What can hold us firm

Distinction making time

Memory & Confession

of those occasions when, in the past, we
have broken through to the essence & reality of God

Some previous time + your messys were tested
 Life shook out to some former scandalous
 glimpse insight in to the God of your people

- Israel once banished

← ————— →

- it cannot be of Israel alone

- Only what is truly God can be trusted to
 keep as safely

- What is truly God is not something

we can give a test to in order
 to identify,

Good News — Time of Testing

- Time of significant decisions making.

God is very close: —

And we have known
 his coming.