

Third Sunday in Lent  
Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Related text: Luke 13:1-9  
Date preached: March 3, 2013

1 Corinthians 10:13. “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

This is a passage in the Bible that gets misread in a way that does great harm. For nowhere in Scripture does it say that God will not give you more than you can handle. Those words of the devil lead us to think that we can do everything ourselves. So when we allow ourselves to think in those ways, we deny the need for God.

How then might we more faithfully understand this particular passage, especially as it relates to the totality of the Bible itself? First we need to acknowledge that temptation is real. It is the chief work of the devil to lead us away from God.

We’ve heard it read in Scripture how the devil tempted Eve and Adam. They fell and as a result, all humanity was plunged into the plague that is original sin. Our natural inclination leads us to our own desires which results in our death.

In Romans it is written, “For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”