

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

March 1, 2020 • 1st Sunday of Lent • Matthew 4:1-11

Get Away, Satan!

Jesus goes into the desert to pray and to fast. At the end of forty days he is tempted three times, first with food, then with power, and finally with riches. Jesus answers the tempter by quoting Scripture. The tempter responds with his own quotes from Scripture. Finally, Jesus tells the devil to go.

Temptation is a part of life. Everyone must deal with it, even Jesus. One of our jobs as parents is to help our children develop a right conscience so they can face temptation. I remember when my young children were watching the movie Pinocchio and I was wishing my children had their own Blue Fairy.

There is a very solemn scene in the movie where the Blue Fairy asks Jiminy Cricket to kneel as she dubs him the “Lord high-keeper of right and wrong, counselor in moments of temptation.” Wouldn’t it be great if all our children were given tiny umbrella-wielding consciences to keep them on the straight and narrow?

As Christians, we have very definite ideas of what is right and wrong. We are called to value others as much as we value ourselves and to value ourselves as much as God values us.

We can try to help our children internalize this message by taking the time to listen and ask questions as they unpack their good deeds and bad. Why did they do what they did? How did they feel? Did the action help or hurt others or themselves? How was the action wrong or right? We will do well if we teach our children to ask themselves these questions before they act.

We play the role of Jiminy Cricket for the first few years of our children’s lives. We are the outside

voice that points out right from wrong, until, we hope, like Pinocchio, they learn from their mistakes and successes and begin to listen to the quiet voice inside.

Then, like that little wooden boy, they, too, are on their way to becoming all their Creator hopes they will be.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have family members talk about what they think they will be like in ten years. What do they think God would want them to be like in ten years?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Write down your response to the Family Response. What do you think your life will be like in ten years? How do you feel about your response? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?