

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

February 22, 2026

“The Shortcut”

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19;
Matthew 4:1-11

Today’s Big Idea

The essence of all temptation is the idea of the shortcut. Jesus shows us the way to resist.

The Essence of Temptation is the Shortcut

A shortcut is a quicker or easier way to a desired end

Underneath this desire is the root sin of **envy**: desiring something that is not yours

The bookends of the commandments contain everything within in: : Exodus 20:1-17

Shortcuts usually end up in tragedy

The Temptation of Eve as a Shortcut: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

You will be like God: Genesis 3:5

Our destiny is to be like God, made in His image, destined for glory

Adam and Eve, innocent not perfect

The long road of becoming like God: obedience, work, walking with God in the garden

The shortcut: Eat the fruit, jump to the end.

The Temptation of Jesus as Shortcuts: Matthew 4:1-11

1. *Turning stone into bread:*

The long road of trusting God to care for You as You care for others

The shortcut: use Your power (meant for others) for Yourself

2. *Jumping off the temple pinnacle:*

The long road of revealing Yourself through teaching, healing, confronting, modelling

The shortcut: dazzle people with your true nature in one dramatic moment

3. *Bow before Satan and receive back authority over the kingdoms:*

The long road of taking back the authority of the world by dying and rising again

The shortcut: get the keys back without the terrible suffering

Jesus was tempted in every way we are yet without sin: Hebrews 4:15

Resisting the Temptation of the Shortcut

If the core of temptation is envy, the the core of resistance is contentment

Contentment rooted in three core beliefs:

That God is good (*Did He really say? For God knows...*)

That God’s Word is enough (*but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*): Psalm 32:8

That my truest desires and proper end are attained by faith: see Hebrews 11:13-16

Waiting patiently, persevering hardship, rejecting the lie of the shortcut

With the temptation will provide a way of escape: 1 Corinthians 10:13

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread:

<i>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</i>	<i>Psalm 32</i>	<i>Romans 5:12-18</i>	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>
<p>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked...</p>	<p>3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. 6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.</p>	<p>12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— 13 for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16 And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.</p>	<p>4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you," 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

March 1, 2026 - Second Sunday of Lent - Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17