

Do not entertain temptation

We are now at the heart of Holy Week as we journey toward the end of the Lenten season and, ultimately, the celebration of Easter.

In the Gospel of Matthew 26:14-25, which Mother Church presents to us today, we see that the time is near.

Jesus gives His final prediction of His suffering and death, and even points out the one who would betray Him—Judas Iscariot. Yet Judas still denies it, saying, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

Judas appears deeply trapped in the sin of betrayal—so much so that nothing seems capable of changing his course.

In yesterday’s reflection, we saw how his love for money had taken hold of him. However, the Gospel readings reveal something even deeper: the work of evil.

In Luke 22:3, we are told that Satan entered Judas, one of the Twelve, and in John 13:27, that as soon as he took the bread, Satan entered him.

This shows that it was not only his attachment to money that led him to betray Jesus, but also his openness to the influence of the devil.

From this, we are reminded of a powerful lesson: we must never entertain conversations with evil—whether outwardly or within our thoughts. Judas allowed such a “conversation,” and it led him down a path of destruction.

Scripture offers other examples of this pattern: Eve’s dialogue with the serpent, Joseph’s brothers giving in to jealousy and selling him into Egypt, and King David’s fall into sin when he took Uriah’s wife and arranged his death.

In each case, the devil disrupted and destroyed relationships that were once good and ordered. As we continue this sacred journey of Holy Week, we are encouraged to deepen our spiritual vigilance.

Let us increase our daily prayer, immerse ourselves in the Gospels, and consider going to confession—especially to let go of anger, resentment, or any sin that may distance us from God.

By Michael Agaba