



Week 2 Homily Summary

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This homily, part of the *Seriously, God?* series, explores why God sometimes says "No"—even to things that seem good. It builds on last week's three principles:

1. It makes sense that God doesn't always make sense.
2. We can grow in understanding because God reveals Himself to us.
3. There's a difference between God not making sense and life not making sense.

This week focuses on the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus is tempted in the desert. His responses reveal why God says no:

- **Temptation 1: Meeting Needs in the Wrong Way** – Jesus refuses to turn stones into bread, teaching that while we have physical needs, prioritizing them over our need for God leads to enslavement. God's "no" helps us seek true fulfillment in Him.
- **Temptation 2: Compromising with Evil** – The devil offers Jesus power in exchange for worship. Jesus refuses, showing that even small compromises with evil can enslave us. God's "no" protects our integrity and freedom.
- **Temptation 3: Seeking Popularity Over Authenticity** – The devil tempts Jesus to throw Himself from the temple for public admiration. Jesus rejects this, teaching that true freedom comes from being secure in our identity, not chasing approval.

God's "no" isn't about restricting us but freeing us—from unhealthy desires, sin, and the need for approval—so we can fully love Him and others. Saying no to sin strengthens us, allowing us to face temptation with confidence: *"Seriously, God, I got this!"*