

We Are Meant to Moderate, not Indulge In, Our Desires

PRO TIP
Download other grades for alternate activities!

CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 375
CCC 398-400
CCC 1718
CCC 1765-1766
CCC 1770

MATERIALS

- ▶ [Munkacsy's Christ Before Pilate](#)
- ▶ Holy Bibles
- ▶ [The Suffering Servant](#)

SUGGESTED TIME

45 minutes

Teacher Background

Because of Original Sin, we tend to be imprudent in judgment and inclined to sin. Having lost the gifts bestowed upon our first parents which put them in a perfect "state of holiness and justice" (CCC 375) we now are charged with great responsibility in discernment and must guard not only our feelings but our thoughts, so that we do not choose against our own good. Since God alone satisfies, all acts contrary to Him bring pain and sorrow.



HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Contrary to the assertions of gender ideology, we are meant to moderate, not indulge in, our desires. Our wills are strengthened when we master our bodies and our bodies (our passions) are relegated to their proper places when we deprive them instead of indulging them. In the rightly-ordered soul, desires are evaluated and mastered by the will before being acted upon, bringing a person (especially through grace) to a place of virtue in life toward his or her ultimate end.

Activity

- Distribute to your students a copy of [Munkacsy's Christ Before Pilate](#).
- Give the class a few moments to look at the image in silence. Then put them in pairs or small groups to discuss the conversation questions.
- Reconvene the class and have a discussion about the questions, using the Answer Key as a guide.
- Then have students take out their Bibles and read Job 1:1-22. Then compare the story of Job to Jesus' temptation in the desert (Matt 4:1-11). The text of both Scriptures are also available on [The Suffering Servant](#).

Munkacsy's Christ Before Pilate

Directions: Look at the painting for a few moments, then discuss the conversation questions.



Christ Before Pilate, Munkacsy

1 What biblical scene does this painting depict?

The Suffering Servant

Directions: Read the Scripture passages below, and discuss the conversation questions.

Job 1:1-22 ESV

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2 There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. 3 He had seven thousand head of oxen, three thousand camels, five thousand yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 And when the day of the least had run their course, Job would send and sacrifice them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan [S] also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Whence have you come?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." 8 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil?" 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Hasten thou not to put a hedge about him and his



Job on the dunghill, Gennaro Cassese

house and all that he has, on every side? 11 Thus hast thou blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 12 But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face." 13 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

- I. Make sure students understand the difference between depriving and indulging our desires with a few examples:
 - Binge-watching our favorite show would be an example of indulging our desires. What would be an example of depriving the desire to watch this show? *Watching only one episode, or none at all.*
 - Eating a whole bag of chips / having only a small serving or none at all.
 - Scrolling social media for hours / staying off social media.
- J. As a final reflection, and as an aid to inspire a true spirit of moderation, have students memorize the following exhortation of St. Paul to the Philippians (**RSV Philippians 4:8**):

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Munkacsy's *Christ Before Pilate*

Directions: Look at the painting for a few moments, then discuss the conversation questions.



Christ Before Pilate, Munkácsy

1 What biblical scene does this painting depict?

This painting depicts the scene in Scripture when Jesus is brought before Governor Pontius Pilate. Already wanting Him put to death, the high priests bring Jesus before the governor in the hopes that the governor will condemn Him.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 2 What is Christ doing? How would you describe His posture and expression?
Christ stands erect, still, calm, though not proud but humble before the civil authority. He does not appear to resist or seek to escape. He looks grave, interested in Pilate's considerations, and not impudent.
- 3 What about the figure of Pilate? What do his posture and expression show?
Pilate appears to be in a moment of deep consideration: the gesture of the fingers on his hand and the stern look on his brow indicate his mind's serious deliberation. He hesitates to judge the man brought before him.
- 4 How would you describe the people in the crowd surrounding Jesus? Why are they so impassioned?
By contrast, the crowd is apparently driven in an impatient and impassioned craze: curious, scornful, whispering, pointing, peering, reaching, clamoring. They demand that a murderer be released and for Jesus to be put to death, after all.
- 5 Who in the painting represents reason? Who represents emotion?
Christ, and even Pilate, may represent reason (one perfect; the other imperfect) while the crowd represents sheer emotion. Note that the will and passions are not necessarily opposed to each other, however they need to be properly formed and put into a proper relationship in a fallen state; moral perfection is being moved to the good by the will and the appetite (RSV Matt 26:39; 27:1-2; 11-14; 24-26; CCC 1770).
- 6 We know from Scripture that Jesus makes no answer to the charges brought against Him, and Pilate is astounded. Why does Jesus not defend Himself? What might He be trying to teach us?
Jesus gives us a supreme example of restraint. He has every right to defend Himself, even to try to escape unjust arrest. He chooses, as He said He would in the Garden of Gethsemane ("not as I will, but as thou wilt"), to remain silent and to do His Father's will. Jesus teaches us that all must be directed to what our Heavenly Father desires and wills.

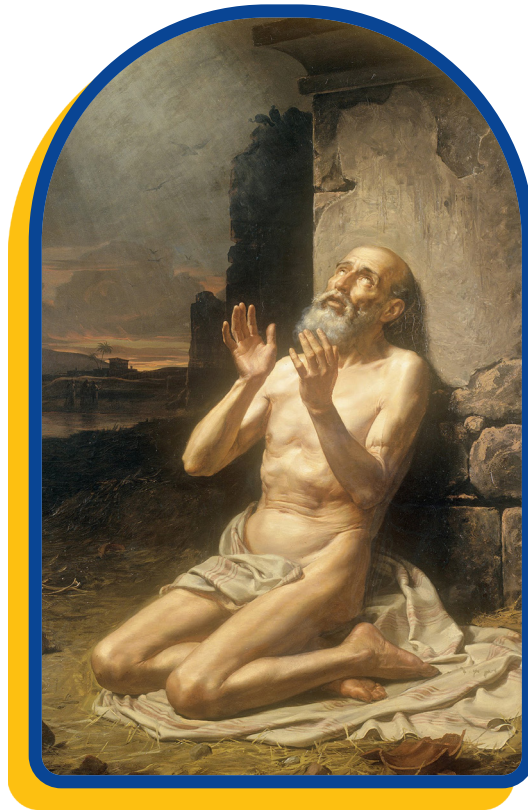
The Suffering Servant

Directions: Read the Scripture passages below, and discuss the conversation questions.

Job 1:1-22 RSV

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil. **2** There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. **3** He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. **4** His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each on his day; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **5** And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan[a] also came among them. **7** The Lord said to Satan, "Whence have you come?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **8** And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" **9** Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nought? **10** Hast thou not put a hedge about him and his



Job on the Dunghill, Gonzalo Carrasco

house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face." **12** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; **14** and there came a messenger to Job, and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them; **15** and the Sabe'ans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." **16** While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you." **17** While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The Chalde'ans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." **18** While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; **19** and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

20 Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped. **21** And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Matthew 4:1-11 RSV

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. **3** And 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,

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will give his angels charge of you,'
and

'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; **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, "Begone, Satan! for it is written,

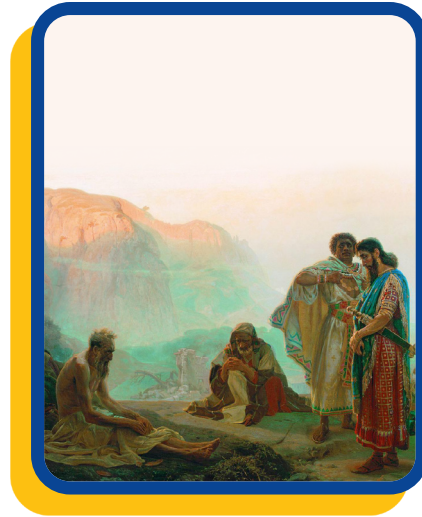
'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 1 A “type” is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. How does Job serve as a type of Christ? Specifically, how does Job’s faithfulness in the face of all loss forerun (act a sign of something to come) the great fortitude of Jesus in the face of temptation by the devil in the desert?

Job is a righteous man who suffers unjustly, like Jesus, the Most Righteous, led unto His death on the Cross.



Job and His Friends, Ilya Repin

- 2 What do Job and Jesus share in common in these Old Testament and New Testament passages?

Job blessed the Lord and mortified himself in his sorrow, and was rewarded. Jesus fortified His will by fasting for forty days and forty nights, and He resists temptation and overcomes the wicked and ultimately empty offerings of the devil after fasting and prayer.

- 3 What is the lesson for us? Is it practical? Impractical? Why or why not?

Our wills are strengthened when we master our bodies and our bodies (our passions) are relegated to their proper places when we deprive them instead of indulging them. The strength of Job, the strength of Our Lord, may seem impractical to us. Job is a special case and possibly aided by divine power, being a beloved of God. Our Lord, of course, is perfect in all that He does. But it is clear that good comes from denying one’s self and suffering for the sake of doing what God wants. The heroes of the Old and New Testaments and Jesus, our model, are more practical than any earthly advocates we can follow, since what they teach pertains to salvation. One great lesson is to moderate our desires in order to live in virtue and in strength to do God’s will.

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1 What biblical scene does this painting depict?

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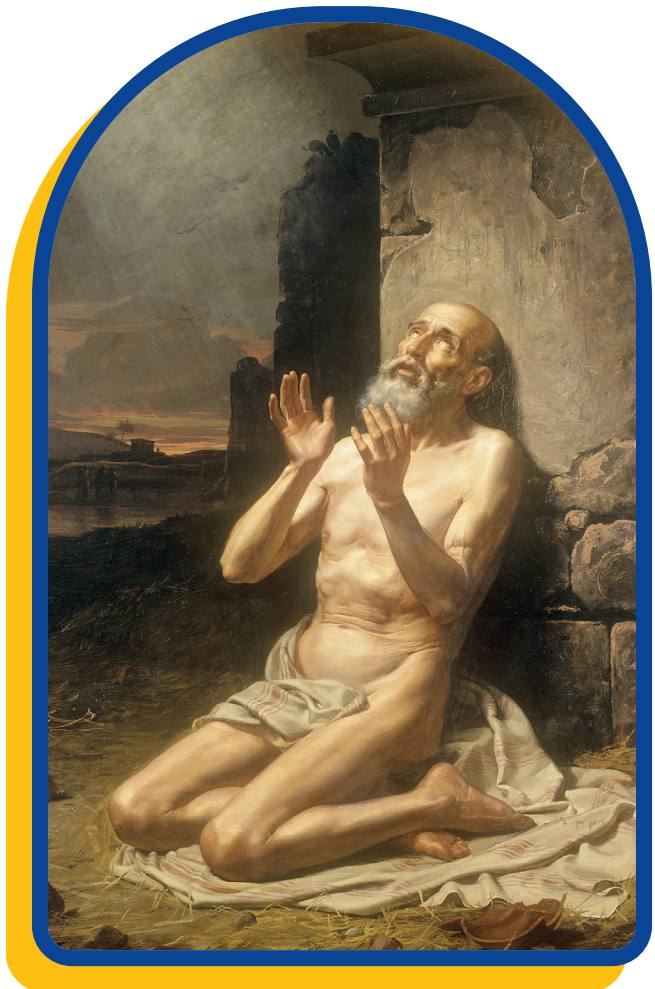
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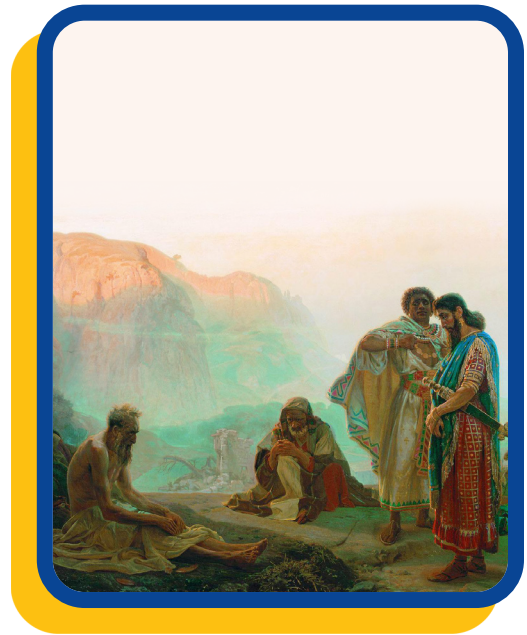
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