

Living Life as Sacred Story 2014: FORTY WEEKS

Weeks 37: Advice and Suggestions

Continuing from last week, **Week 37** brings us the third of three *Strategies of the Enemy of Human Nature*.

This third strategy is particularly malicious, because it deceives us on multiple levels. This tactic masquerades as a righteous cause while hiding our wounds from sight.

As always, the enemy is offering us a *counterfeit truth* – evil cannot create anything new, so it makes grotesque parodies of holy things and tries to convince us to accept them.

This strategy is uniquely effective today because it plays on our fears and our desire for the appearance of righteousness (rather than the often uncomfortable process of growing in real holiness!)

We want to consider this week how the enemy is manipulating us into accepting something less than true holiness. We will recognize our true selves when we honestly confront our weaknesses and feel how much we need the healing graces of the Divine Physician. This week's lesson calls us to awaken even more as to why we need the Lord's help. Remember, we can either trust in the Lord's Mercy and seek his help or settle for a judgmental attitude about our own weaknesses and those of others. Let us choose the Lord's mercy always!

The [Week 37 E&W](#) offers us an in-depth consideration of the enemy of human nature's "battle tactics," using Ignatius' own background as a framework. This E&W gives significant background and context for our recent "Discernment" lessons, so it will be very practical for us to take an extra five or ten minutes to read through it this week! Because it is more of a "teaching" E&W, you might also consider sharing it with friends or family who are interested in Ignatius' insights on "spiritual warfare."

These discussions of the enemy's tactics can discourage us, but the consolation (demonstrated by Ignatius' own life!) is clear – ultimately, it is not our work, but the Lord's work, and nothing is impossible for Him. As our Affirmation this week reminds us:

Only God's grace and mercy can write my Sacred Story!