

**Mary Schellenberg**

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*This piece of creative writing came out of an assignment prompt that was to parody some of Thomas Hardy's poetry; this poem is an attempted parody of the meter, the appearance of the stanza, and the length of Hardy's famous poem "He Never Expected Much." Something from this poem that I utilized in my parody, was the repetition of the phrase from the first line in each stanza into the second. I think, in the context of my poem, this repetition reinforces the temptation that Satan, or the devil, tried to use with the Lord. Because the Lord still "stood firm," as I put it in the third stanza, it showcases a great aspect of his character. But I also think it is interesting to note that the Lord experienced these temptations, kind of like how Jesus was a man and experienced all the temptations we do today, and still didn't give into them. I think this is important, not only to recognize Biblical themes but to understand why the "Savior" motif - which is so often portrayed in literature, is such a big deal. The savior motif implies resistance to temptation, great suffering, and many more things that Jesus endured. Additionally, the introduction of a savior figure in any work implies a sacrifice, like Jesus' death on the cross. Overall, writing this parody was initially for a class assignment, but I think it can showcase the power of the Bible as literature and the impact of the Bible on literature.*

### **The Three Temptations**

(Luke 4:1-10)

When he saw the dry stones he said,  
he surely said,  
It's you I dare to make this stone bread  
If you truly are King.  
So, if in trees I stand alone -  
No water, food, but yet a stone,  
This temptation be devil-thrown;  
To Jesus I will cling.

It's next the world that He was shown,  
That He was shown,  
All the kingdoms that this world had known,  
With glory He could own.  
And told to worship it all was He –  
Money, land, air on bended knee,  
But the Lord said you worship me:  
The world holds not a throne.

On the temple He now was brought,  
Now He was brought,  
And off the temple he, mad, besought  
The Son of God to leap.  
But putting not the Lord to test -  
though much the devil did contest,  
He stood there firm without unrest,  
The devil with no reap.