



Grow. Pray. Serve.

March 5, 2017

Know Who You Are

1. Lent begins today. 40 days now through Saturday before Easter. Excludes Sundays
2. The word Lent comes from a word meaning the lengthening of days. 40 is an important number because of its huge biblical significance. 40 was the number of years the people wandered, rain during the great flood. Jonah told the people of Nineveh they had left before God would destroy everything. Temptation.
3. Themes:
 - **Mortality.** We are all temporal flesh and blood. Breeds humility and that we need someone much bigger than we are – God. Dependence reminds us never alone.
 - **Justice.** Justice is a fundamental biblical theme and the need for justice continues from generation to generation. Our world is broken. Relationships are broken. Suffering abounds and as followers of Jesus we are to seek restoration of what is right and reconciliation wherever we find ourselves.
 - **Salvation.** Indeed, we each need a Savior, a Savior who will save us from ourselves and our perishable nature. Christ is the doorway to life beyond this one.
 - **Forgiveness.** The season of Lent culminates with Jesus dying on the cross. One of the most liberating truths is that through Christ we are forgiven and therefore we can not only release our own guilt, but are free to forgive others and the healing it brings to all.
 - **Repentance.** Lent is a season of repentance, which simply means to turn around or turn back to putting God at the center of our lives. Repentance is freeing precisely because we can let go of trying to control everything and turn our lives and challenges over to God.
1. My prayer for all of us in the weeks ahead is that we will intentionally take time to sit with God and turn all that is within over to God. And my greatest hope is that God's love will fill each of us so that we will approach each day with hope, joy, service, and the knowledge that indeed, when it is all said and done, all will be well.

Today's Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 New Living Translation (NLT)

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

3 During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.



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