



Monday, March 5, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17

The commandments given to Moses for God's people are still foundational to our faith and many systems of justice for nations around the world today. Living within the framework of these laws, we still have great freedom and the opportunity for a good life.

REFLECT-

- If we are truthful, most of us take only some of these laws seriously in our daily lives. The commands about the Sabbath day, honoring our parents, and coveting things have generally been discarded by our culture as archaic and no longer relevant. What would it mean in your life to try to be obedient to ALL God's commandments?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to be intentional and faithful in living according to all your commandments. Amen.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 1:18-25

Writing to the Christians at Corinth, a center of Greek culture where physical beauty, intellectual reason, and personal pleasure were prized, Paul emphasizes that God values very different things. The suffering and death of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection meets none of their culture's criteria for great value. Yet God used it to save the world.

REFLECT-

- As Christians, we are called to set our priorities and what we value according to God's standards, not those of our culture. Living simply, giving thanks for the blessings of life, sharing what we have with those in need, and loving those we encounter - that is the life to be prized in God's Kingdom. Do your best to live into those Kingdom priorities today.

PRAY-

O God, guide me in the choices I make today so that I may live faithfully, obedient to your will. Amen.

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 2:13-22

Jesus, angered by the selling of animals for sacrifices in the temple courtyard, takes a whip and clears out not only the vendors, but the animals they are selling. He makes it clear their commerce there has defiled the temple which is supposed to be a place of worship.

REFLECT-

- Are there things that defile our place of worship? Are we so concerned with proper clothing or the "right" kind of music that those issues overshadow our ability to open our ourselves fully to God? What inhibits your worship?

PRAY-

Father, help me to focus on the real elements of worship – prayer, scripture, proclamation, praise and repentance. Amen.

Thursday, March 8, 2012

READ- The Psalm: Psalm 19

This psalm is divided into two distinct sections – vs. 1-6 proclaiming the glory and majesty of God's good creation and its reflection of the Creator; vs. 7-14 emphasizing the importance of obedience to God's commandments and always seeking God's presence in our daily lives.

REFLECT-

- Many days, we are so caught up in the busyness of our lives that we fail to take notice of the outrageous beauty and remarkable construction of God's creation. The sunrise and sunset, a majestic mountain, the rolling waves of the ocean, and the tiny wings of a hummingbird are all reflections of God's amazing love and creative power. Take time today to notice these things and give thanks!

PRAY-

O God, thank you for this beautiful world in which we live. You have provided it for us to enjoy and to care for. Help me do my part in caring for your good creation in the way I live and the choices I make. Amen.

Friday, March 9, 2012

ACT-

Disciplines for Lent:

- **Gratitude**

Today I am most grateful to God for _____.

- **Fasting**

Today I will give up _____ in solidarity with those who are in need.

- **Repentance**

Today I ask forgiveness for _____ and ask God's guidance in turning away from that sin.

- **Giving**

Today I set aside \$_____ from my abundance to give to someone who is suffering or in need through _____.