

Lent – A Time of Reflection

It seems like we just finished celebrating Lent a brief time ago and yet here we are again back in the midst of another season of Lent.

Christmas has come and gone with the exchanging of gifts and family get togethers, resolutions for the New Year have been made and many have probably gone by the wayside and now the season of Lent is upon us.

Of course, for many of you Lent is a special season and for Christ's Church it is a very special time of reflection. This time of reflection begins on Valentine's Day this year which I think is very ironic. A day when love is celebrated around the world we find ourselves beginning a season of solemn preparation concerning the journey our Lord, Jesus Christ took to His death and His resurrection.

Along the path of the Lord's journey we observe a number of events that took place in the Scriptures to reflect on this 40-day journey of Lent leading up to the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of our Lord.

We observe the 40-days in order to commemorate the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and being tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 12-13; Luke 4: 1-13)

The number 40 has a significant role within events occurring in the Bible. Besides Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness Moses, when he received the 10 Commandments from God was on Mt. Sinai 40-days and 40-nights. (Exodus 24: 18); the great prophet Elijah when being pursued by Jezebel he fled into the wilderness and spent 40-days and 40-nights journeying to Mt. Horeb. (1 Kings 19: 1-8); and of course, how can we forget Noah and the flood. (Genesis 7: 1-12); God told Jonah to prophecy to the great city of Nineveh that in 40-days He would destroy it if they did not repent of their evil. (Jonah 3: 1-4); the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years because of their disobedience to God. (Numbers 14: 34); there may be others, but the number 40 is very significant to us as we go forward into the observance of Lent.

Likewise, as we begin the preparation for Lent on Ash Wednesday of this year and as Valentine's Day is also celebrated on this day I think it appropriate to think of the love Christ showed to us through His death and resurrection and what a better holiday to observe this love Christ has for each and every one of us but on Valentine's Day. The day love is observed.

So, as you prepare for Valentine's Day, remember that Ash Wednesday also begins our preparation of Christ's journey to the cross and the unconditional love He showed through His dying and rising for all of humanity.

Take time out on Valentine's Day to remember the unselfish love Christ has for you and thank God for the gift that pronounced salvation to the entire creation: the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Remember to say to Jesus; I ❤️ You!!!

In Christ's Service & Love

Pastor Rich