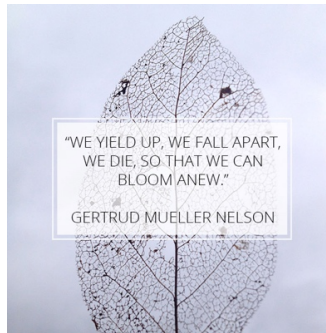


# LENT AS AN INVITATION



## 1. UNDERSTANDING LENT

- Past Lents.
- What we will see in this mission?
- Learn from Jesus in Desert.

## 2. LENT AS A NEW SPRINGTIME.

- Meaning of word Lent. In itself it means Spring as a season.

## 3. JESUS LED TO DESERT TO PRAY.

- Jesus **led** into the desert for 40 days.
- Time of purification.

## 4. POWER OF WORD “IF”.

- “If” connotes doubt.
- Doubt distorts faith.
- Jesus responds, with truth.

## 5. WE CAN GET CAUGHT IN THE DOUBT

- Doubt can distort the truth.
- Doubt can also help us discover the truth.
- *“There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds”.* (Alfred Lloyd Tennyson)
- Doubt lets us question - that can lead us to the truth.
- Without the questioning we can become indifferent.

## 6. LENT IS TIME TO SEEK THE TRUTH.

- Going deeper into my core to discover truth.
- Jesus **led** by the Spirit.
- We are **led** by the Spirit to freedom.

*Contrary to what you might have been told, Lent does not mean 40 days of beating yourself up. It doesn't mean 40 days of God beating you up and reminding you of what kind of person you really are. Lent means spring. It means lengthening of days, opening the windows, letting in life and death to the things we can't control. (Diane Roth, “The Christian Century”)*

Mt.4:1; Lk.4:1

Numbers 14:34

Phil. 2:6-11

Mt. 4:3-9

Deut. 8:3

Deut. 6:16

Deut. 6:13

# LIVING IN THE BALANCE



## 1. TO BE TEMPTED IS TO BE HUMAN.

- Temptations is not sinning.
- It touches our humanity.
- Look at Adam and Eve temptation.
- Fruit was good to eat, Beautiful to the eyes. Delightful to consider.

## 2. THREEFOLD TEMPTATIONS

- Three things Jesus is tempted.
- Jesus is tempted by his human weakness after 40 days.
- Evil one entices His human desire to abandon the Father.

## 3. JESUS AND ADAM AND EVE

- Comparison of Jesus and Adam and Eve.

## 4. OUR TEMPTATIONS

- Drawn into our desires.
- Looks at our weakest place most vulnerable.
- Draws me in to what is reasonable.
- Leaves me with my own power.

## 5. THREEFOLD PURIFYING WAY OF JESUS.

- How this is done.
- **Fasting.**
- **Almsgiving**
- **Prayer.**

Gen.3: 1-6  
1Jn. 2:16  
Mk. 12:41-44  
Mt. 6: 2-21

## WHAT DO I BRING TO THE CROSS?



### 1. LENT LEADS ME TO THE CROSS.

- All the ideas I have for lent. I tell God what I am going to do.
- Take our example from Peter.
- Weakest point is his denial.

### 2. HAUNTING SOUNDS OF FAILURE

- Peter is reminded of his failure.
- Live with that every day of his life.

### 3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FAIL?

- Letting self and others down.
- Three Failures: I cannot, I refuse, I am fearful, to do something.
- Shame from evil – I am ashamed of myself.
- Shame from God – I am ashamed of the action.

### 4. MOVE FROM FAILURE TO MERCY.

- Forgiving power of Jesus.
- Jesus needed Peter to know His mercy

### 5. CROSS IS THRONE OF GRACE

- Purpose of Lent is to purify us to **embrace** the Cross.
- Our purification is that we recognize ourselves as sinners.

*Lk. 22:54-62*

*Heb. 4:16*

*Mk. 5:25- 34*