

The Way of Jesus ... the Way of the Cross

2008 Lenten Guide Pantano Christian Church



Luke 9:23

Pccwired.org – keyword: Lent

The Way of Jesus ... The Way of the Cross

Luke 9:22, 23, 51

In chapter 9 of Luke we find the idea of Jesus' way being the way of the cross clearly presented. In verse 22, Jesus predicted that he would die: *“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”*

Then he said in verse 23 that *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”* Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to die on a cross. His way is the way of the cross. He invites us to follow him (go his way) and take up our cross.

Then, a few verses later in verse 51, it is clear that he knows his way. His way will lead to Jerusalem where he will die. *“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”*

Everything in Jesus’ teaching centers on his self-sacrifice and that his way was the way of death that would eventually lead to and give life to all. During Lent we will focus on Jesus, his way of sacrifice and his invitation to us to take up our cross daily.

What is Lent?

Lent is an opportunity to practice the key spiritual disciplines of **prayer and fasting** that help us connect with self-denial and the way of Jesus.

Traditionally Lent is the 40 days of fasting before Easter (Sundays were not traditionally counted in the fasting). Lent is a time of preparation for remembering and celebrating the suffering of Jesus on the cross and his victorious resurrection on Easter.

What is Fasting?

During Lent we decide to fast from something that we consume and consumes us. It can be something that we typically “can’t live without” or it can simply be something we enjoy and would miss. We can fast from food in general or from specific foods like sugar or chocolate. We can also fast from activities or hobbies (like watching TV), or habits (like talking too much) or even from sinful things (like addictions).

We fast for four basic reasons:

- 1) It reminds us of our selfishness and self-focus. Fasting is an act of self-denial and dying to self is a life-long journey with God.

- 2) During our fasting, the desire or temptation to partake of the food, activity or habit becomes our reminder or prompting to pray.
- 3) We use the time we would invest in eating, preparing food or in the activity or habit we are fasting from to use for prayer, Bible reading and reflection.
- 4) In a small way during our fast we join Jesus in his suffering and dying. **The way of Jesus is the way of the Cross!** We join him in “crucifying our flesh” during this time. To maximize our Lent experience we should choose a fast that is truly self-denial by “dying” to something that is a part of our life.

Please go the PCC website (pccwired.org) for more information, guidelines and instructions on how to fast. Use the keyword: Fasting

Lent at Pantano Christian Church

2008 Theme: The Way of Jesus...The Way of the Cross.

We invite our church to enter and practice the Lent season in the following ways:

1. Begin Lent by joining together for the Ash Wednesday service on Wed. Feb. 6 (7pm) for encouragement, resources and instructions.
2. Decide to fast from a food, activity, habit or sin. See the guide above for help on how to fast or go online using keyword: “Fasting”
3. Commit to spend time each day with the Lord using the Lenten Guide we’ve prepared. This guide has a scripture for each day. Read it and take time to reflect or meditate on it. For help with meditation go online to pccwired.org and use keyword: “Meditation”
4. Take time to pray about what you read regarding the way of Jesus and the way of the cross. Make this a very real, authentic and personal time with God.
5. Conclude Lent during the Maundy Thursday celebration on March 20th (7pm). During this service we’ll remember the Last Supper of Jesus and conclude our fasts with communion.

Daily Scripture Reading Guide For Lent
The Way of Jesus ... the Way of the Cross
Reflect and Meditate on these Scriptures

Scriptures Dealing with DEATH, SACRIFICE & SURRENDER:

Thr - 2/7 John 5:24
 Fri - 2/8 John 11:16
Sat - 2/9 John 11:49-53
 Sun - 2/10 John 12:23-33
 Mon - 2/11 John 19:17-30
 Tue - 2/12 Acts 21:12-14
 Wed - 2/13 Romans 5:6-11
 Thr - 2/14 Romans 6:1-14
 Fri - 2/15 Romans 14:7-9
Sat - 2/16 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
 Sun - 2/17 1 Corinthians 15:30, 31
 Mon - 2/18 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
 Tue - 2/19 2 Corinthians 7:8-10
 Wed - 2/20 Philippians 2:5-11
 Thr - 2/21 Philippians 3:7-11
 Fri - 2/22 Colossians 3:5-10
Sat - 2/23 Hebrews 9:26-28
 Sun - 2/24 Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Scriptures Dealing with THE CROSS:

Mon - 2/25 Mark 15:21
 Tue - 2/26 Luke 9:23-27
 Wed - 2/27 Luke 14:25-27
 Thr - 2/28 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
 Fri - 2/29 2 Corinthians 13:4
Sat - 3/1 Galatians 2:20
 Sun - 3/2 Galatians 5:22-26
 Mon - 3/3 Galatians 6:14
 Tue - 3/4 Colossians 1:19-23
 Wed - 3/5 Colossians 2:13-15

Thr – 3/6 Hebrews 12:1-3

Scriptures Dealing with THE WAY & FOLLOWING:

Fri – 3/7 Matthew 7:13, 14

Sat – 3/8 Matthew 10:24, 25 & Luke 6:40

Sun – 3/9 Matthew 16:21-28

Mon – 3/10 John 1:35-50

Tue – 3/11 John 10:7-10

Wed – 3/12 John 14:1-7

Thr – 3/13 1 Peter 2:21-25

The FINAL WEEK of JESUS' LIFE:

Fri – 3/14 Messianic Psalm Psalm 22:1-31

Sat – 3/15 Prediction Luke 18:31-34

Sun – 3/16 Triumphal Entry Luke 19:28-44

Mon – 3/17 Clear Temple Luke 19:45-48

Tue – 3/18 Traps & Teaching Luke 20:1-21:36

Wed – 3/19 Last Supper John 13:1-17

Thr – 3/20 Maundy Thursday Luke 22:7-46

Fri – 3/21 Good Friday Luke 23:26-56

Sat – 3/22 Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Sun – 3/23 Easter Luke 24:1-53