

CABC LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



2024

Lent, in many traditions, has been known as a period where we fast from something in order to give God our focus. Fasting is often a focus on abstaining from food for a period of time to dive into a deeper focus on our relationship with God. This is done in many traditions because it is modeled and talked about by Jesus himself. At the beginning of his time in ministry, just after his own baptism, Jesus goes off to spend time in fasting in the wilderness. It's in these moments that Jesus prepares himself for the temptations and ministry that lies ahead for him. (Matt 4:1-11)

There is temptation and ministry that lies ahead for each one of us. We certainly don't know the future path in front of us, but this life will bring all kinds of twists and turns that we need to be prepared for. Fasting is a way of denying ourselves something that is important to us to remind ourselves of who God is in our lives. If we are honest with ourselves, there are many things that distract us from God. Food on its own is a good thing, but even good things like food can become something we crave and run to. Those things, if they pull us from God, become distractions that we must deal with.

This Lent season we are taking to heart this call to give up something and choose to be intentional in our connection with God and others in place of it. Today, social media and our connection to our technology takes so much of our focus away from where it needs to be. According to Forbes, 4.9 billion people are on social media around the world.¹ For the average American they spend 5 hours and 24 minutes on their phones in one day.² Much of that time is spent scrolling for connection in a digital world that will always fail to fully make us connected. For so many of us, we need to take a break from distractions like these.

You may be reading this thinking that you don't have social media, you don't have a phone, or you don't have a problem with this. Any or all of those may be true but each one of us has something that pulls us in and away from better things. During this season, I want us to seriously consider what each of us needs to give up in order to work on our connection with other people and with God.

Here at CABC, we are going dark on social media to try to model the goal we have in reconnecting with our God. It's my prayer that this season will be one of reconnection with the One who deserves our ultimate attention. Let's not give 5+ hours to something and give him our leftovers. The key is where our heart is focused. Matt 6:16-18 reminds us that when we choose to fast, we aren't doing it for notoriety. "Your father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Our heart needs to do this, but we need to do it for ourselves and not for the attention it can bring. If our motives are to grow closer to God, he will honor that as we spend this time with him on purpose.

Let's let go of something in this season and purposefully replace that time with Jesus. I look forward to hearing how God uses this time of intentionality to grow each of us as individuals and as a church family.

1. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/social-media-statistics/>

2. <https://www.zippia.com/advice/smartphone-usage-statistics/>

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

I am encouraged when I see this verse playing out in the life of ministry at CABC in so many ways. Adults and youth develop plans and combine ideas and energy to share the Bible, music and games during a week when our church is transformed into a specially-themed place during our summer VBS. This results in young lives being touched and changed with the love of Jesus - my two granddaughters visiting from the west coast included. They continued to sing the songs they learned due to the joy in their hearts for the remainder of their summer visit here.

People learn about other people's lives and respective faith-walks as they clean up the outside on our church work day together. They are part of a team of volunteers scattered about our property on a Saturday morning, serving the Lord and their church body while connecting with each other during what almost becomes a fun time together.

A team of children's volunteers evaluates and dreams together on a summer evening about whether a new children's program will provide an even more effective way to share about Jesus and His love for them. This group does not know yet that their decision to try this program (after much discussion and honest sharing of hearts) will result in 9 kids accepting Christ on a Wednesday night just a few months from then. All of these children will make a decision to be baptized at CABC in the future, providing one of our church family's most celebrated of days – Baptism Sunday!

What God is doing in the Dominican Republic inspires over 40 people to sign up for another trip in February 2024, and they trust that God will use them during a week of ministry to kids and adults. This opportunity for serving combines the gifts and willing hearts of adults and youth from numerous churches in the surrounding area. What a picture this shows of the church of Jesus Christ coming together for His purposes!

These are just a few of the ways our church body has encouraged and inspired me. I expect I am not alone with those feelings of joy as well as some of the examples where God shows up right in the middle. This body has been faithful in seeking God's will, His provision to accomplish a task, and the desire to allow Him to lead and provide willing hearts and hands to accomplish that leading.

Isaiah shares when he heard the voice of the Lord in Isaiah 6:8, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" We all have been given a gift or gifts from God to share in ways that will glorify Him, share His love and allow people to see Jesus in us. When we are willing to step away from our plans and ask God "How can you use me...send me", we find fulfillment the world cannot come close to matching. In that way, we offer ourselves – with the time, gifts, skills and resources – for opportunities to come together in God-directed service. This blesses us, our co-laborers and especially those we are blessed to serve. And while following His leading, our actions can also speak to an unbelieving world who will witness sacrificial living, versus self-satisfying actions and motives that exemplify worldly living.

We focus at this time of year specifically on the One who loved us enough to suffer, die, rise from the dead and offer us eternal life with Him – Jesus Christ, our Savior. Let us honor Him by sharing His love with each other as we work together to further His kingdom.

Colossians 3:12, 13b – "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Dear Lord, thank you for the brothers and sisters You have allowed me to join with in service in Your name. Help me to be sensitive to the needs of others around me. Let me experience the joy that comes from pleasing You and fulfilling Your purposes for my life. I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus, our loving Savior. Amen.

Make the most of connecting with God through this Lenten season and prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

This past year a couple of mom friends and I did a book study together. We had all been struggling with not being the best versions of ourselves and wanted to encourage each other on to better mothering. We read a book called *Triggers: Exchanging Parents' Angry Reactions for Gentle Biblical Responses*. (I highly recommend it.) About halfway through I came the chapter entitled, "When Will They Ever Change?"

Seeing this chapter title was balm to my frustrated soul. Apparently, I am not the only one who struggles with tiny humans that do the same irritating things over, and over, and over again. The amount of times in one day I've had to tell my four-year-old not to stick his finger in his nose and wipe it on his sisters.... I mean, seriously.

And then, I read the chapter. Here's just a little excerpt, "God uses rough sandpaper to make His creations lovely and smooth. I knew, after a day where I had exploded over my little one's immaturity, that God was using their rough edges to smooth me out and soften my heart. God planned the lion's share of my spiritual growth to be done in the fiery furnace of family life.... What if God designed motherhood to make me holy rather than to make me happy? What a thought!"

What a thought indeed. I have wanted to be a mom since I can remember. As a little girl, when people would ask me what I wanted to be when I grew up, my response was "A mom." Before I understood the concept of numbers, I told people that I wanted a million kids. Then after reading *Cheaper by the Dozen*, I settled on the number 12. (At some point I met Josh and that number got whittled down even further.) And so, I entered motherhood with rosy expectations and a blissful ignorance of how much it would challenge every single part of my existence.

Even after having just one, I began to realize that I am not the patient, selfless, gentle person I thought I was. And now with six, that has been magnified even more. In the past few years, as I have struggled to change my children's behavior, I have begun to realize that it is more about God wanting to change my heart.

"What if God designed motherhood to make me holy rather than to make me happy?" The same can be true for just about any circumstances we find ourselves in – marriage, a job, school, etc. Our society is so obsessed with chasing the elusiveness of happiness, that we can often get caught up in thinking that's what life is about. When our purpose is to become more like Christ.

As a Christian, I am called to be "set apart." 1 Peter 1:14-16 says, "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." This is a tall order, and one that I fall short of every single day. But God has placed me exactly where I am to help me become more like Him.

I can choose to see my children's immaturity as an irritant. Or I can choose to see it as an opportunity to model what it looks like to follow Christ. And with His help, hopefully I can be the one to change.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

Join in worship to our God with others. Write your notes from your time of worship and reflection below.

When I was trying to figure out what to write for the Lenten Devo, I considered a couple of ideas. My first idea didn't work, so I thought of another. Well, that didn't work either, so I talked about it with my mom. She told me to listen to God and he will tell me what to write. I agreed and went to bed. While I was lying in bed, Proverbs 3:5 & 6 popped into my head. I read it and continued to verse six. It says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and He will make your paths straight." When I read those verses, I knew I needed to write a devotional about them. I began to look at them deeper. I saw that the two verses had three parts. 1: Trust in the Lord. 2: Lean not on your own understanding. 3: Submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.

We need to trust in the Lord. It may be hard some days because we might feel alone, or we don't understand the plan God has for us. However, Isaiah 41:10 says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." The verse is telling us to not be afraid because God is with us. He is always with us, and we can trust Him. He has us in His righteous right hand.

We can also lean on our own understanding. We need God to help us go through life. Isaiah 55:8&9 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." His ways are better for us. His ways are above our ways. We need to lean on God because He knows better than we do.

Finally, we need to submit ourselves to God. We don't know what the future holds. Sometimes we don't even know what to do. We need to submit ourselves to God and He will us. We need to pray and read our Bibles. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." When we read the Bible, God will point us in the right direction. God uses the Bible to answer our prayers since the Bible is God's breath. He can point out a verse you didn't know you needed. God uses the Bible to speak to us. It is one of the tools we must have to hear Him. Now, let's pray and talk to our Father.

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for every person reading this. I pray that You just pour out Your love to them and help them feel comfort. I pray that You help them trust You and build a relationship with You. I pray they turn to You through the struggles of the weeks ahead. I pray they don't lean on their own understanding and that they turn their faces toward You. Again Lord, I thank You for every person reading this. We love You Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

"Lord, how great is our dilemma! In Thy Presence silence best becomes us, but love inflames our hearts and constrains us to speak. Were we to hold our peace the stones would cry out; yet if we speak, what shall we say? Teach us to know that we cannot know, for the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Let faith support us where reason fails, and we shall think because we believe, not in order that we may believe. In Jesus' name. Amen." – A. W. Tozer

So often I find myself having the bare minimum connection to God. Every time I struggle, I cry out to God, and then once I find myself comfortable, I ignore Him. How do we as Christians both love God and ignore Him? We can't do both, yet so often I find myself trying to.

What might be the reason for this? One possibility is that we hold God captive in our minds and don't let Him drop down to our hearts (Jer. 9:23-24). One cannot truly know God if His Spirit is not given room to dwell in all of us (Gala. 5:16; Rom. 8:5-6). We must abide by God's standards and be obedient to Him. Intellectual understanding is not sufficient. Many atheists know the Bible well, but they don't know God (Tozer, 1978). What sets us apart is we don't simply know about God, but instead we know God (Tozer, 1978). personally, with Him personally through our time in the Word, in Scripture. God's word is alive and active, and He reveals Himself to us through His Word (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23; Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). We also connect to Him through our prayer (Psa. 145:18), we should rejoice in this as our almighty God is personal, even caring about the spec that is us.

Father God, I pray that you would soften my heart and give me the wisdom and discernment to understand my placement with you. Let me not ignore you in times of ease, but fully rely on you in every moment. Though I fall short daily, I find peace knowing that you are merciful and consistent with me. In you I find purpose and in you I am free. I pray that with your strength I can cling to you in the same manner you cling to me. In your heavenly and wonderful name, Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 5 & 6

February 22

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

Psalm 19:1-4 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour a fourth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

This past summer, our full family made a weeklong trip out to Colorado. (If this feels like *déjà vu*, yes, I did write about a Colorado experience in last year's Lenten Devotional too.) Ethan and I were very excited to have Alexandria experience all the beauty, wonder and adventure of this new favorite place of ours, and in doing so we specifically timed our trip to coincide with the week of a new moon. Throughout this week there were several mornings where we woke up sometime between 12:00-3:00am to see the stellar views (pun fully intended).

For the record, I've lived in the country for almost all my life, but there is nothing like stargazing in Twin Lakes, Colorado early in the morning during a new moon. There are millions of stars to be seen, shooting stars at regular intervals, and the Milky Way is crystal clear. In these moments of gazing up into the galaxies, I cannot help but think of the Creator of it all.

How amazing is our God that He created such wondrous and beautiful marvels all around us. He spoke each of these creations into being in such amazing details that we cannot even fathom it all. But He is also not just a distant god. At the same time, He desired to create us to live with Him amid it all and created us with such equally wonderful and grand detail. Psalm 139:13 reminds us, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

How incredible that the God of the infinite universe is also the God of intimate relationship. The God of the cosmos is also the God of community. And He desired relationship with us so much that He would eventually come down to provide a way for us back to Him. And not, mind you, because we were worthy of such a sacrifice, but because He was loving enough to make it. It's about as incredible as the vastness of the sky.

May we slowdown in this season and take time to stop and see the extraordinary beauty around us; the works of His hands surrounding us. May we take time this Lent season to rejoice and be thankful for the mighty things God has done, and for the endless, vastness and wondrous love He has for us.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

Join in worship to our God with others. Write your notes from your time of worship and reflection below.

He Is Still The Great I Am
Terry Hess

February 26

"Do not be afraid, I have redeemed you. I have called your name. You are mine. When you are in over your head, I will be there with you. When you are in rough waters, you will not go down. I am God your personal God, the Holy of Israel, your Savior, so do not afraid; I am with you." Isaiah 43: 1-3,5

On September 8, 2023, I had a heart attack and was in the hospital for five days. There were many doctors and nurses looking after me. I also had five days to think about what had happened. God has a way of getting your attention and shows you things He wants you to change in your life. He finds a way to humble you by showing you things you need to get rid of altogether. He also finds ways to comfort. The above scripture was the first one in my daily devotional when I returned home from the hospital.

God also gave me a loving wife who was by my side every day. He truly does hold you in the palm of His hand.

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

Retirement. To some people, this world signifies a major achievement in life, a goal to aspire to. To others, it brings on dread. Will I be ready financially? How will I occupy my time? Is this the end of my contribution to life?

I retired in February of 2023. Retirement was neither a goal I had finally met after dreaming of it for so long, nor was it a moment of dread. For me, it was a little frightening because I'm still a couple of years away from the traditional age for retirement – 65. My world was turned in a completely new direction back in 2019 when my husband passed away. Every thought I had of my future was now gone, I had to start over.

God, however, knew what He was going to do with me. He orchestrated my marriage to the most wonderful man in the world, and He made sure I am prepared to do whatever He calls me to do. I am so blessed to have the health (minus my old-age back pain) and financial stability to retire and see what He brings my way.

I think Christians should never retire. When Christians leave their worldly job, it's so important that we fill our newfound time with God's work. Right after I retired, I panicked. I was afraid I'd fall into the habit of sleeping late, watching TV, and just wasting my time. But I remember the charge to press on with His plans.

So, my two goals after retirement were to lead a bible study on Grief for our church, and to volunteer at Pappus House (a residential Hospice facility in Thomasville). I am grateful to say that I have completed both of those goals. I keep adding to my goals, I also volunteer for the Deacon board, the Pulse on Wednesdays, and wherever I am called to fill-in. There are many opportunities to volunteer at CABC or in many places in our community.

I also go to the YMCA two to three times per week. We have been given our bodies and health, so it's important to take care of them. (I'm way behind with that!) But I do try to go to the Y to keep moving. We are also charged with taking care of our minds, so I'm thinking of ways I can stay mentally challenged. Most importantly, we cannot let our spiritual health falter, just because we have retired. Stay involved in church activities. Find a way, any way to get involved. CABC has so many ministries where you can volunteer. You just have to ask.

Scripture says in Isaiah 46: 4 "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." We HAVE to believe that and thank Him by serving Him.

The bible also reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11 "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" We usually offer this scripture to youth graduating from high school or college. But as retirees, we too are venturing out into a new adventure.

Finally, one of my favs, Proverbs 16:31 "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness." Us older Christians have so much in our bodies, minds and hearts to share with those younger than us, and God has given us our lives to do so.

So. Here's what we can do now: Grow our minds and spirituality, Serve God and our community - stay connected. And Give of our wisdom, time and financial resources.

That's how we figure out what we do now.

Thank you, Lord for working Your ways in my life. I am truly blessed to be healthy and financially able to follow Your lead. Thank you for cherishing the elderly and opening up our hearts to give back our wisdom, time and resources. Amen.

Read through this chapter of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

Now that I am securely well-established in the bliss of senior citizenry, I have become aware that I still have a lot to learn! I thought by the time I got to this stage of life I would have things of life all figured out. Wrong! If I had known, I was still going to have to figure a lot of things out in these golden years I might have worked harder when I was younger... probably not!! I guess the more positive way to say all this is that you never stop growing and learning. And, you know what, it's good to keep growing and learning. Especially when it comes to our faith and walk with Jesus. In fact, Peter wraps up his second letter with this word of encouragement. "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

I don't know where you are but let me be honest; prayer is a needed growth area for me. For several months, I have been spending my devotional time reading about prayer. Yes, and praying! I have been using the writings of Jennifer Kennedy Dean who in numerous books, studies, and articles has specialized in prayer and Chris Tiegreen with his year long devotional on prayer. Both offer insights on prayer that are fresh and challenging.

Here are two truths that I have learned, and my prayer is that they will be of encouragement to you.

First ... I so identified when Dean wrote in her prayer guide "Seek – 28 Days to Extraordinary Prayer "

"Let's be honest. Does prayer feel like a wrestling match? Do you find yourself approaching prayer as though its purpose is to win God over? As though you need to plead your case and convince God to act? Does it feel like you are trying to talk God into something?"

YES ... all the above! I told you I have a lot to learn! Her words helped me to move beyond the request aspect of prayer (although this is a part of prayer) and glean a broader understanding. She challenged me to see prayer as so much more than getting God to perform for us and how we can open ourselves up to his transforming presence. Open our lives to His power and provision, his wisdom, and guidance.

Her next words struck pay dirt with me.

"Reframe the purpose of prayer. Prayer is the way to open your heart toward God so he can do what only he can do. Seek Him for what he will do in you, not for what he will do for you." (p.7)

For me this was good stuff! Made me think and reflect. The last sentence kept resonating with me. But there's more.

Second ... I believe you will agree with me that immediacy and hurrying is such a part of our society. I am amazed as I sit in a local coffee shop to see the baristas placing cup after cup of beverage on the pickup counter and see customers zooming in, picking up there whatever and zooming out. No wait ... off they rush!

But ... Dean says prayer is different.

"By God's purposeful design, prayer has waiting periods. If prayer works best by operating like a vending machine – put in a prayer, get out an answer – then that's how prayer would work. But it doesn't."

" God has designed prayer as a process, not an activity. He is doing more than we are praying for.... we are cooperating with the work he is doing in us and not just for us." (p.31)

The picture of a prayer vending machine really hit me. For me it was so helpful to think of prayer as a process. In my impatience and hurry it slows me down. I begin to look forward to what God is doing in me.

Amazingly just as I was digesting these thoughts from Dean, I was reading my other devotional author Chris Tiegreen (The One Year PRAYING IN FAITH Devotional) and he said the same thing; prayer is a process. And just like Dean he reminded me that in the process God was at work.

"Sometimes God spends and extraordinarily long time working out his purposes. ...There's a purpose in the process, though we hardly recognize it at times. It strips us of our tendency to look for evidence that God is answering our prayers or working out his plans. We are being anchored instead in faithfulness. We are learning to walk by faith.... Mature faith waits confidently regardless of what our natural eyes see." (January 24)

(continued on next page)

There is so much more but Dean and Tiegreen have challenged my understanding with these simple, but important insights on prayer. I have grown. And I hope that these simple thoughts will be insightful and helpful for you. I'm seeing prayer in a deeper transformational way. It is far more than just wanting something from God but how God is doing something in me. He is enabling me to become more conformed to the image of Jesus.

My prayer for you in this season of Lent is that God will enable you to grow in your understanding of prayer as he is doing for me in these senior years. However, I encourage you to start sooner! Therefore, I want to pray for you ...

Lord, I pray for all who read these words that they will discover in a new fresh way the gifts you give through the power and provision in prayer. In the words of Paul to the Ephesians ...may they "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests". Lord, I pray that you will use prayer to grow their faith. If they become impatient, waiting for an answer, they may trust that prayer is a process in which you are working for their good. May they seek you Lord not for what you do for them but for what you will do in them. Lord help us all as Paul prayed for the Colossian church ...to "live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work."

In your life may this devotional and this season of Lent be a time of wonderful growth, especially in prayer.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

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If You Believe You Will See The Glory of God

Pastor Polo

March 4

John 11:38-44

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

One of the most difficult biblical truths for some people to understand is the fact that Jesus during his earthly life was God and man at the same time. He was God as a way to show us that He is not someone distant and God to come save us from our sins.

Jesus had friends. On one occasion he was informed that his friend whom he loved very much had become ill and then died. Apparently the death of Lazarus occurred due to Jesus' lack of attention. Lazarus' sisters told Jesus more than once that if Jesus had been there, their brother would not have died.

Apparently, Lazarus' sisters were unaware that Jesus had control over the situation. Jesus knew what was happening from the distance. He knew what had happened to Lazarus so that the name of God would be glorified.

Are you going through a situation over which you have no control? Have you prayed and still don't have an answer?

You can be sure that God is in control and knows the answer.

Today, as Jesus said to Martha, one of Lazarus' sisters, "If you believe, you will see the glory of God."

Scripture Reading: Luke 10 & 11

March 5

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

This has been a very challenging year for me and it has been difficult to write a devotion. But God has been throwing different verses and songs to me to remind me I am never alone.

Proverbs 3:5 & 6 (NIV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." This verse has carried me through many years and when trouble or heartaches happen how quickly I can forget to trust Him in those moments. He reminded me in Isaiah 55:8 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."

As time went on, God has provided me with His love and care every day. As I can truly say God has provided me with peace and hope that we will see our loved ones and our precious Savoir in all his glory either in his return or if I leave this earth before his return. I am so grateful for my family and friends and a church family who has supported me in the last year. Their phone calls and prayers and care were and are so precious to me.

With the celebration of our Lord and Savior may we all be reminded why He took our place on the cross for our sins. John 16:33 (NIV) "I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." His love for us. I John 4:9 & 10 (NIV) "This how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we live through him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." I pray that you have accepted His love for us and allow Him to live in you. John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Lyrics to Song "Stay Strong" by Danny Gokey

I've been waitin' for breakthrough, I've been prayin' for change
I know You'll work it all for good but how long will it take?
I've been asking for healing and I'm not gonna lie
I'm ready for the miracle, God, let it be this time

But if I never see the promise on this side of the grave
My hope might be shaken but my faith will never break
Because I know the day is coming when You'll right all of the wrong
So I'll praise You in the waiting and my faith will stay strong
Yeah, ooh

God, You taught me to trust You, You showed me how to believe
You're the author and the finisher of what You start in me
So I'm not gonna doubt it, I'm gonna hold onto peace
'Cause if I have You and nothing else, I still have everything

'Cause if I never see the promise on this side of the grave
My hope might be shaken but my faith will never break
Because I know the day is coming when You'll right all of the wrong
So I'll praise You in the waiting and my faith will stay strong

I'll count it joy when I am tested
'Cause You bring beauty from my pain, it's never wasted

But if I never see the promise on this side of the grave
My hope might be shaken but my faith will never break
Because I know the day is coming when You'll right all of the wrong
So I'll praise You in the waiting and my faith will stay strong

Because I know the day is coming when You'll right all of the wrong
So I'll praise You in the waiting and my faith will stay strong
Will stay strong

Scripture Reading: Luke 12 & 13

March 7

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Last Easter was a difficult one for our family. My husband's (Mark) father passed away at the age of 95 on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at York Hospital with most of his entire family present – even 6 from the west coast. And while, as believers, we could celebrate our resurrected Savior on that Easter Sunday, we did so through tears of mourning for the precious life we lost here on earth. We rejoice in knowing that Dad Schumacher is in Glory with Jesus, but the pain was, and is, real in the loss of one so dear.

Just 8 months later, our son-in-law, Imran, was at his father's bedside in Bangalore, India, as his dear "Pa" left this life. We rejoiced at Christmas in "Emmanuel – God with us", but mourned with our daughter's family in the loss of one so very special to us all.

Many, if not most, of you understand this pain and have mourned the loss of a loved one. I am reminded of the verse above during these times of mourning and even other difficult times in life. In His "Farewell Discourse", Jesus was telling the disciples plainly that they will have troubles and hardships in this life, but that they are to "take heart" because "He has overcome the world."

At the beginning of the verse, He says "I have told you these things". What were the things He was telling them? He was reminding them that He was going to the Father and that they would see Him again and rejoice – no one would be able to take away their joy.

I love that reminder to us that as we have struggles and heartaches in life, we have the victory in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! He tells us that He has overcome the world – for us!

If you are tired, weary, down-hearted and struggling this Easter season, take heart in the fact that you can be an overcomer because He has overcome the world!

Our son-in-law, Imran, sent us the verse below that blessed him during this difficult time of mourning. I want to encourage you in the understanding that through life's grief and challenges, we can still stand firm – even when life doesn't make sense - even when our hearts are breaking. He is with us.

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."
2 Corinthians 4:8&9

Dear Heavenly Father,

Remind us today that because of You, we have a Living Hope, that You are with us in the storms of life and that most importantly, You have overcome the world. Thank you for the promise of Eternal Life with You as we place our life in Your hands. We look forward for Your return one day. Keep us faithful to You and may we be prepared to share this Living Hope with those that You place in our path.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

Join in worship to our God with others. Write your notes from your time of worship and reflection below.

"Don't quit, give your fight to God for the battle is the Lord's, not mine!" *

Those words ring in my mind today as I think about the daily events of my upcoming week. Those words are a poem, a devotional and a scripture. Holy Spirit given in a time of seemingly all consuming problems, the feelings melt to the timely reminders of God's great love and protection in the moment by moment trusting in His Holy Word.

How thankful I am for the Holy Spirit and the gentle way He directs our thoughts when we turn to Him in our time of despair. Our amazing Lord of all deserves our praises day and night for His awesomeness.

I Samuel 17:47 as David the shepherd went before Goliath and declared that this day Goliath would meet his doom "for the battle is the Lord's" becomes a theme that we can see our own goliaths fall as we declare the same words. Just as the prophet Jahaziel assured King Jahoshaphat the word that God would fight for them against a large army, so can we be assured that He is our protector and defender of our deepest needs. Praise God!!

In our season of remembering our Lord Jesus and His being our sacrifice, our worship is more than reasonable and deserved for He did what we could never do and God seeing our need, sent Jesus to pay our debt. Oh what a Savior, sing Hallelujah!!!!

*Poem "Don't Quit", author unknown

Scripture Reading: Luke 14 & 15

March 12

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

Who Is A Missionary

Laurie Kuhn

March 13

Missionary in American English

1. a person sent by a church into an area to carry on evangelism or other activities, as educational or hospital work
2. a person strongly in favor of a program, set of principles, etc., who attempts to persuade or convert others
3. a person who is sent on a mission

I recently looked up definitions of the word, Missionary. It is a noun, as well as an adjective. I found there are so many different meanings on what a Missionary is to the world. I chose the one above, the closest to what the Lord teaches.

As chairperson for the Mission Committee, I get to hear and see, and help make decisions with the other members as to what happens with each organization we support, and so do you. When you vote on the Missions budget. You are a Missionary!

Christ American Baptist Church members, as well as people from 3 other churches, 42 total, are going to the Dominican Republic at the end of February. They are Missionaries! The people who are praying, donating items, time and money, they are Missionaries!

CABC recently went to Anadarko, OK, with members of 3 other churches. We had a large donation giveaway, VBS, and English literature class on writing with the Native Americans. They are Missionaries! Those people who prayed, donated items, gave of their money and time are Missionaries!

]To those who are in favor to further the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and help others to seek Him with the programs and organizations at CABC, and pray and give to Missions, you are a Missionaries!

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

In the 1990's I had a job requiring home visits with low-income families. One day while driving down a busy city street toward my assignment, I caught a quick glimpse of an older woman near the curb. She was in a wheelchair and reaching desperately toward something on the ground. I quickly turned into an alley rounded the block and pulled into a parking spot near her, intending to jump out and "save the day". But when I saw the full picture, I was taken aback.

This woman sat contentedly in her wheelchair, pulling weeds from the square patch of ground around a small tree in the sidewalk. There was a sparse group of flowers around it that she likely planted there. She didn't notice me or seem to comprehend the street noise; just went about her task with joy in her face. That moment spoke in a way that I'll always remember. In my own arrogance, I thought I would be helping someone "less fortunate" than I. Though my heart was right in wanting to help, the way I perceived her was completely wrong. I realized that in those seconds rounding the block, I was saying to myself, "that poor woman, she must be so sad and struggling...". I had imagined the recognition I might get for such a grand gesture. I looked at her as "less" and myself as somehow "better". Yet here she was, at peace, overcoming her challenges in a way that most wouldn't even attempt to do in the same circumstances.

We can look at others and believe that they are "less fortunate, less intelligent, less spiritual...", you fill in the blank. God tells us that we need to humble ourselves always, knowing that no one is above another. Each person is His creation and His treasure, and we should see them as such.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you". Romans 12:3

Take an honest self-assessment. Do you help others because you pity them? Do you help to get accolades for good deeds? ...or do you help in obedience, valuing others as God's beloved creation?

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

Join in worship to our God with others. Write your notes from your time of worship and reflection below.

I grew up hearing the teaching of Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord - is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." I'm sure most reading this have heard this and thought about 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." In my youth, these seemingly contradictory scriptures on fear caused a bit of confusion but over time my understanding of the New Covenant grew.

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Psalm 95:6-7

This Psalm is filled with images of intimacy with the Lord our Maker. Encouraging us to enter into a closeness with Him because He is our God and we are of His hand. In this relationship, fear and intimacy cannot coexist. If I fear Him, I won't be able to believe in His goodness and protection. I must be established in His grace.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." I can now come boldly to the throne because of His grace. His blood has been shed on the mercy seat and now I can enjoy His favor, supply, protection, and help when I need Him.

Jesus defined the fear of the Lord as the worship of the Lord. His response to the devil in the wilderness was "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Matt. 4:8-10). He was calling back on Deuteronomy 6:13 which says, "You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him".

He showed me how to understand the fear of the Lord. I can come boldly into His presence and worship Him. When I worship Him, the angel of the Lord encamps around me like a shield of protection. When I worship my Savior, His wisdom leads and guides me with Shalom Peace. I encourage you today - worship Him!

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

1 Corinthians 14:8 "Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"

What a strange verse to pull out and put in a Lenten Devotional! Paul writes in this letter to the Corinthian church his desires for their orderly worship and instructions on the spiritual gifts. Chapter 14 comes directly after the infamous love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13, which ends with verse 13; "And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Paul enters chapter 14 saying "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy." These gifts are for edification of the whole body! They are for the whole church to grow spiritually together in love. And to reach out to those around them.

We recently took a large cohort of the youth group to River Valley Ranch for the Winter Meltdown Retreat. This was my first time as the Youth Director organizing this retreat, and to boot, it was my first time at RVR for the winter retreat. I was excited, nervous and did not know what to expect. Micah and I had some time to catch-up and connect the day of the retreat, and he asked me, "What is your goal for this weekend?" (Micah always has great questions!) Thankfully this was an easy one for me to answer. I saw the work God was doing in the hearts and minds of our students over the past months, and in my quiet time with the Lord, I was praying fervently that this would be a catalyst to each of these teen's faith in Jesus Christ. God met us in that prayer. Pastor Tim Trinkle from Virginia was prepared with a strong, Biblical message that had our students diving into the story of creation in Genesis, Ezekial, and the dry bones, and finally in Matthew 28 with the Great Commission. Pastor Tim's final word was a challenge to all of us to go and make disciples!

So, back to Paul's words. Our key verse gives the metaphor: If the trumpet sound is not clear, who then can come to prepare for battle? This is a metaphor for our clear communication of the gospel message. Paul continues in this chapter calling the church to pray; pray with understanding and speak clearly, intelligible words to build up the body of believers. With the challenge from Matthew 18 in our minds, as we spend this time of lent in the word and hearing from God, let's share that clearly with those God puts in our path. You have a special area of ministry right where God has placed you in this world. Sound a clear call and allow the Holy Spirit to convict and change lives.

Dear Lord, I thank you that we can take time to learn from your Word this Lenten Season. Will you help us with our application for these lessons. Thank you for the ministry you have given me right where I am in my school, in my work, in my family. May I speak your truth clearly by the gift of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 20 & 21

March 21

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

Asleep in the Storm

Melissa Myers

March 22

In September of 2017 when Irma, a category 5 hurricane, tore through the Caribbean, my sister Cathy and her husband Charlie were vacationing in the Turks and Caicos Islands, directly in its path. Cathy and I were glued to our cell phones as she tried repeatedly to get a flight out ahead of Irma. Eventually we realized that they would need to endure the storm. She gave updates and I binged on the Weather Channel -- not wise! As the storm built so did my fear.

As Irma pummeled the islands, I would randomly lose contact. When we connected, I sensed terror and, at times, hopelessness in her voice. She described the cacophonous sound of the wind and debris battering the hotel. They had been instructed to place the bed mattresses over the windows for protection. Charlie worked relentlessly, assisting the hotel staff in their efforts to protect guests from the violent winds and impending storm surge. Cathy was alone for extended periods. I began a barrage of frantic texts to our Pastors begging for prayer. Thankfully, they politely indulged.

At the height of the storm, near midnight, Jim Cantore made an over-excited announcement that the Turks and Caicos would not be there in the morning; the storm was just too big and the islands too small. A text somehow came through shortly afterward, more of a goodbye than an update. The water was filling the 3rd floor; the hotel was just 3 stories. As I wallowed in desperate panic, my "Steady Eddie" husband Barry snored peacefully under a mound of blankets. How could he possibly sleep through this?! Didn't he care?! I woke him to pray, and he did his best to comfort me. He knew that it was in God's hands and whatever frantic efforts I made were not going to change that. He had faith and a peace about it-- how dare him! I lost contact with Cathy for the next several hours, I was distraught with fear. Barry slept soundly. I continued with desperate pleading prayers. Finally, a ping! The message said, "we made it!"; the worst of the storm and surge had passed. They were alive!!!

Through that experience, Jesus' words, "why are you afraid, do you still have no faith?" became clearer. Regardless of the outcome, my tumultuous bout of worry was meaningless. God remained in control, and He determined the result whether it was the one I wanted or not. Christ is ever-present with us and will always carry us through. It's very natural to fear those crises that we face in life just as the disciples did in the boat, but there is a supernatural Spirit that overcomes our fear if we allow it. If only I could've demonstrated Barry's faith and calm spirit. It was in me, but I chose to stay in my humanness. A faith lesson hopefully learned.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40)

"In the eye of the storm, You remain in control, And in the middle of the war, You guard my soul, You alone are the anchor, When my sails are torn, Your love surrounds me, In the eye of the storm"

--Ryan Stevenson

What storm are you facing today? Can you surrender your fears and step into His calm?

Prayer Time

Spend some time in focused prayer. Write your requests or notes from your time below.

Worship - Sundays at 9:00am at CABC

Join in worship to our God with others. Write your notes from your time of worship and reflection below.

"Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, . . ." -Luke 18:1

There are so many times in this life that we are faced with opposition from our spiritual enemy. In fact, it is 24/7 in one form or another we wrestle against forces many times we don't even realize is troubling us. I find this to be a constant in my life as I encounter each day. I think it is important to realize these facts and be aware of the reality it creates. In doing so it brings to my attention the need for diligent communication with the Lord in prayer.

Now if you read on in Luke 18:2-8 you will find a very interesting parable Jesus shares about a judge in a certain city who did not fear God nor regard man and a widow who came to him, requesting, "Get justice for me from my adversary." The story goes that he resisted her at first, but she kept persisting in her demand on him. He gives in and avenges her because she wouldn't give up and he was troubled by her. Then Jesus explained the parable by comparing the judge to God in that He would likewise respond and avenge His own "elect", "who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them." He even elaborates by saying "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily."

I love this parable because it opens a door of opportunity. I think when a need arises, I am alert to pray about it initially but soon I find myself fading from this confession of need. I tend to wander away from this practice and move into my own efforts to remedy the situation. This is a challenging dance because I want to walk in faith through the encounter. To me this means to listen for the Spirit's instructions and follow His leading and be careful not to move in my own thinking.

After many trials I have learned to pay attention to my emotions. When I am experiencing fear, worry, doubt, anxiety, etc. I know that I am believing something erroneous, and I need to confront this wrong believing with God's Word. The key to overcoming these challenges is find rest in God's promises. His Word tells us over and over to trust in Jesus and His finished work on the cross. He will deliver us from the snares of the enemy.

This brings us back to the widow who wouldn't give up on her demand. Jesus gives us another secret in verse 8 when He says, "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." I see Jesus saying to me to get courageous and persistent with my asking/praying. He is showing us that unlike the judge who got weary and troubled by her demands on him, God is not weak to these feelings and is in fact encouraging us to be like "the persistent widow."

Read through this chapter of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

2 Corinthians 4:11 "For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body."

Have you had suffering in this world? Many of us think of severe trauma, injury, loss, or sickness as the depiction of suffering in this world. And those four possibilities encompass most of our suffering. But have you ever considered that your struggle with an assignment in school, your conflict with a friend, your feelings of overwhelm on certain days, or even just your tired body are all ways we are "given over to death" as this verse states?

Often, we go to verses like this when we are in an extremely difficult situation, but as I read from this chapter this morning, I realized that second part: "so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body." Another translation says it this way: "so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." We in our humanity are mortal, so anytime we overcome the ways that our body is "given over to death" we give glory with our human body to Jesus Christ and His resurrection! So last week when I was feeling like so many pressures of the world were piling up on me, I reached out to my friends for prayer.

And as God calmed my heart and gave me the ability to serve Him that day, even in my feelings of overwhelm, He gets the glory! What are the ways that Jesus is seen in your body today? Has he strengthened you even as you live with difficulty? As you persevere with His help, are you able to give Him glory for the ways He reveals Himself in your mortal body? Everything we walk through in this life that has potential to hamstring us, when we overcome through God, that is Jesus Christ being seen in our earthly bodies. No matter how small, I encourage you today to see the ways God is using your earthly body to glorify Him and testify to the eternal life we have because of our hope in Jesus Christ our Savior.

"What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh, how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me"

Read through this chapter of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?

A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.
– Matthew 8:2-3

I've been reading through the book of Matthew recently, and this passage caught my attention. "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." What a statement. A whole lot of faith, mixed with some doubt. This man has confidence that Jesus is capable of a miracle – of reversing the terrible disease that he is afflicted with. And yet...just because He can, will He?

So often, this is where I find myself. I have every confidence that God is capable. A passage I find myself drawn to quite frequently is Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

I know that God is so much bigger than I am. I am finite, and so I continually marvel at the fact that I only have the faintest idea of Who God is and what He can accomplish. And yet, I so often picture God as reticent. If I ask, is He willing? Often, I don't ask. Or I ask timidly. Or I ask with a whole list of disclaimers attached.

Earlier in Matthew, Jesus says: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

I always struggle with this passage because I know that I am imperfect. That I ask for the wrong things or with the wrong motives. And sometimes the answer is going to be no – no to healing, no to safety, no to what it is that I desire. And yet despite being told no, God is still good. Because He is sovereign, He knows what is best.

The leper's request was striking to me because it is how I tend to operate. But even more compelling, is Jesus's response. "I am willing." We serve a God who is willing. So willing that He created humans with the ability to choose something other than Himself. A God who, even after we made the choice to reject Him, was willing to send His only Son to die for our sins. Jesus who gave up heaven (Heaven for goodness' sake!) and came to this mucky, murky earth to experience what we experience. Jesus, who willingly bore the penalty for all the wrong we have done. A God, who chose to save us even in all our filth and unworthiness.

He was willing then. And He is willing now. The same God who healed the leper with two words, is capable and wants to save you and me as well. He gave us the ability to have a relationship with Him. He pours out His love on us, even when we don't deserve it and can never measure up to it. During this Lent season, I encourage you to fix your eyes on Him. To recognize that He is able and willing.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24

March 30 & 31

Read through these chapters of the book of Luke. After you finish today's reading, take a few moments to reflect about what you've just read. Here are some questions to ask yourself. Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided as you seek to grow deeper with the Lord during this season.

What did I learn from today's reading?

How does this scripture apply to my life today?