

Lent Devotionals

March 26 – April 1

Day 19 - Read Luke 11:29-54

“Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn’t darkness. If your whole body is full of light-with no part darkened-then it will be full of light as when a lamp shines brightly on you.” Luke 11:35-36

“Slow Fade” by Casting Crowns

*Be careful little eyes what you see. It’s the second glance that ties your hands as darkness pulls the strings
Be careful little feet where you go. For it’s the little feet behind you that are sure to follow*

*It’s a slow fade when you give yourself away. It’s a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid. When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day. It’s a slow fade, it’s a slow fade*

*Be careful little ears what you hear. When flattery leads to compromise, the end is always near
Be careful little lips what you say. For empty words and promises lead broken hearts away*

*The journey from your mind to your hands. Is shorter than you’re thinking
Be careful if you think you stand. You just might be sinking*

Today we live in a world that challenges us at every turn to keep our lights shining. In Romans 2:18-19 Christians are told that if we know the will of God then we are to be a “light for those who are in darkness.” Let our lights so shine!

Michelangelo’s prayer: “God grant me the desire always to be more that I can ever accomplish.”

-Lori Campbell

Day 20 – Read Luke 12:1-34

“Notice how the lilies grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27

Beethoven, Mozart, Da Vinci, Shakespeare, and Frost – They are considered some of the best artists of all time. My personal favorite, though, is Terry Redlin. He was a painter who specialized in nature scenes, and he had an amazing way to use color and light. He could pull me in to his paintings and make me feel as if I was in that place. Every time I see one of his paintings, I get a feeling of warmth and nostalgia.

But that feeling pales when I compare it to the feeling of watching a springtime sunrise glistening off the lake, witnessing 50,000 geese rise off a marsh during their migration, seeing majestic mountains from the plains, or simply examining the complexity that went into making one simple flower.

We can do many great things, because we are built in the image of God. The words of Shakespeare, Frost and the other great writers can inspire and entertain us, but the words of God’s love and salvation through Jesus Christ is so much more inspiring. The notes of Beethoven and Mozart are awe-inspiring, but nowhere near as awe-inspiring and complex as the collective songs of the warblers, sparrows and other songbirds singing their morning chorus to bring the song of God’s creation.

The paintings of Da Vinci, Monet, and Redlin are beautiful, but can never compare to the beautiful painting that we get the chance to live in and experience every day.

Remember that you are part of the tapestry that God has woven. You are part of his plan. Enjoy life. We, as Christians, get the best job of all. We get to be part of, and carry out, the beautiful story of God's creation.

-Aaron Van Ningen

Day 21 – Read Luke 12: 35-59

Do you ever feel like you're in a constant state of preparing? When you're young, you prepare for tests, sporting activities, band concerts. As you get older, you begin to prepare for college. When you get to college, you prepare to get a job and go off on your own. Some of us prepare for a life with someone else. We get married and begin to prepare to have kids. Our kids are born and we begin the process all over again by helping them prepare for life.

God says we won't always know what will happen, but that it's good to be prepared. In all the preparing we do, if we constantly prepare ourselves for the time when Jesus returns, He says, "when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat (us) at the table as honored guests, and wait on (us)." I sure felt good when I passed all those tests in school, but that is nothing compared to how I'll feel in the presence of Jesus.

-Jeremy Skoglund

Day 22 – Read Luke 13

One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in a Synagogue when a woman came up to him who had been sick for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not stand upright. When Jesus saw her, he asked her to come over to him. When the woman came near him, Jesus placed his hands on her and said, "Woman you are set free from your sickness." She immediately straightened up and praised God. The Synagogue leader was mad that Jesus had healed someone on the Sabbath. Jesus reminded the leader that other people did simple things like watering and caring for animals on the Sabbath. Jesus asked the leader why it was okay to care for animals on the Sabbath, but wrong for someone to be healed on the Sabbath.

1. Do you consider what Jesus did for this woman work?
2. Do you think that Jesus healed the woman on the Sabbath to point out the Pharisees' hypocrisy?

-Jim Karn

Day 23 – Read Luke 14

"Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple... none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple." Luke 14:26-27, 33

1. What do you think Jesus was trying to tell the crowd with these harsh statements?
2. To put Jesus first in our lives and be his disciples today, what relationship are we to have with our family and our possessions?

-Jim Karn