

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is a week from today, March 24th at 3pm. This meeting will include Children's ministry but will not include a Formation I teaching. As the exact date of our 51st anniversary we will have a **social following the meeting** to allow an extended time of fellowship. You are invited to bring snacks or a dish to share.
- Registration for **Camp Jesus** is open. This year's camp will be held at MSM from June 10 to 14. More information can be found [here](#).
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), [teachings](#), and [Jubilee](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

As Lent draws to a close the [Responsorial Psalm](#) reminds us of what the Church is asking of us during this time. Psalm 51 is a powerful reflection on the disposition of our hearts. These last days of Lent present us the opportunity to plead for mercy, pray for a clean heart, and ask for a renewal of our spirits. Let us together pray these words and call them to mind each day, *"Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.*

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me."

Washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, standing on the promise of our Father's unconditional love for us, we can listen and receive Jesus' message in the [Gospel](#) today, *"unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."*

Unless we read them superficially, these are simply going to be hard words to hear. Jesus is addressing one of our three enemies (the world). While satan is always on the prowl, and our Lenten journey is targeted at our flesh, the world never tires. The world is a nonstop rat race vying for our attention. To this temptation Jesus' words are clear...we must die to produce the fruit He has for

us. We must lose and hate our life in this world to preserve it. To our rational brains this goes against everything natural inside us.

We naturally want to be comfortable; we want the best for ourselves and those we love. What is wrong with this? This is exactly why so many of God's lessons in the Old Testament were not embraced by the Israelite people. This is exactly why Jesus' message was rejected by the religious leaders of His day. It simply does not make sense. This partially explains why so many of our family and friends also choose a different path. The question is...what is the Holy Spirit asking of us today?

Just as Jesus walked the earth, taught of the Father's love, fulfilled the Father's promises to the Israelites, and gave His life as witness...we too are called to look beyond the temptations of the world and focus our attention on what is beyond. Calvary must precede resurrection. This is the Gospel message. God has a better plan, one that includes you and me. This is our moment in history to follow His example to fall to the ground and die, to lose and hate our present life and look to our eternal life with faith, hope, love, and courage.

This is why God called the Christian Community of God's Delight into existence. He needs us, He needs our Yes, He needs our witness. Our brothers and sisters have the same temptations as we experience from the world and require our witness and example if they are ever to hear the truth and choose to block out the message of the world. Let us renew our hearts today and recommit to dying to self in all areas of our lives so that we can effectively follow Jesus' example.

Let us pray "Jesus, my Lord and Savior, I choose You, I choose to follow Your words and example to die to myself, to hate my life in this world so that I can live eternally for You. Show me the path You are leading me on. Empower my Yes through Your Holy Spirit. Today I declare my intent to look beyond what this world offers and focus my sole attention on You! I love You Lord! Amen."

God Bless,
David