

BRINGING IT HOME

Make a 180

At the midpoint of Lent (give or take a few days) and after studying the Ten Commandments, we really must look at repentance. The Greek word translated in the New Testament, as repentance is “metanoia.” It means a change of course or direction. It’s a deliberate decision to make a 180° turn and walk in another direction, on another path. That might mean not doing something, doing something differently, or doing something new.

Each Sunday we confess our sins with the prayer below. Begin this week to make it a practice to confess your sins daily. And then, repent. Make the deliberate decision to make a 180° turn and walk in another direction.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Reflect on your experience of daily confession and repentance:

SERMON NOTES

John 2:13-22
3rd Sunday in Lent

1. What did you learn about God from today’s Scripture and sermon?
2. What did you learn about yourself?
3. What action might God be calling you to this week?

DIGGING DEEPER

We're often reminded that our relationship with God isn't about following a set of rules. However, that doesn't mean that if we have a relationship with God, we don't need to follow His commandments. It's quite the contrary: Our relationship with God *compels* us to live by His commands.

Read Exodus 20:1-17

1. What part, if any, have the Ten Commandments had in forming your faith?
2. How does God's statement in verse 1 justify the first commandment in verse 2?
3. Does "You shall not make for yourself any idol" apply to us today? Why or why not?
4. How might we "misuse the name of the LORD your God"?
5. Without getting caught up in the specific requirements outlined regarding the Sabbath, how might you incorporate this commandment in your life today?
6. How does "honor your father and your mother," relate to your relationship with God?
7. Murder and adultery are not just external acts. Jesus describes them as matters of the heart (in Matthew 5:21-30). Given Jesus' stance, what does it mean to obey these commands?
8. How might we "steal" from God?
9. What does God say about our neighbors? In what way is coveting wrong not only against our neighbor but also against God?
10. Why do you think that God gave these commands? Do you think that He intended them only for the Israelites or us too? Why?

LIFE CHECK

1. Where did you see God at work in your life this week? Consider the following questions as you think about God working in your spiritual, home, work and social life.

How were you blessed this week?

Did God prompt you to bless someone this week? How did they respond?

How has God answered prayer?

Did you seek God's will and obey?

Did God speak to you through Scripture, a person, or in some other way? What happened?

How did God work in and through you to share your faith this week through words and/or actions?

2. What action might you take this week to draw closer to God and see Him at work in your life?

PRAY

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP p. 826