

BRINGING IT HOME

Sacrifice – Obey – Turn – Light

Jesus is the light of the world and when we believe, we have eternal life! But, living in the light does require something from us too. Consider these questions during this forth week of Lent:

1. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. In what area of your life is God asking you to make a sacrifice? He might be telling you to take the long way around, to give more of your time, talent and treasure to others, or to give up something to spend more time with Him. Ask God to reveal it to you.

2. Once you know what it is, obey. Sure, this might be easier said than done, but remember that when we believe, we will have eternal life! What one step can you take this week to obey God?

3. Sometimes obedience requires repentance. We practiced repentance – making a 180-degree turn – in Bringing It Home last week. Revisit that exercise, if needed.

4. Let Jesus' light shine through you! When you make a change in your life to sacrifice, obey and repent, others will see something different about you too. Consider and then, act on how you might be a light for someone this week.

SERMON NOTES

John 3:14-21 4th Sunday in Lent

1. How can you be “born by the Spirit every day?”
2. How can starting the day with the Spirit affect your life?
3. How does the experience of Jesus help you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Setting the Scene: Edom had denied the Israelites permission to cross its land on their way to Canaan (Numbers 20:14-21) and God told Moses not to fight against Edom (Deuteronomy 2:4-5). So, Moses turned the people southeast, instead of heading northwest toward the Promised Land, to make a long, difficult journey around the land of Edom.

Read Numbers 21:4-9

1. How do you feel when people complain to you about someone else? How do you feel if you learn that someone complains about you?
2. What were the Israelites complaining about? How do you think God felt when He heard the Israelites complaining *again*?
3. What do you think God may have wanted the people to learn by sending them the long way around?
4. Why did the people say the Lord sent venomous snakes? Why do you think God may have specifically used snakes to get their attention?
5. What did the people do in response to the snakes?
6. Has God ever used “snakes” to get your attention? If so, what happened and how did the experience change you?
7. What did Moses do when the Lord spoke to him? What characteristic did he display?
8. John 3:14-15 says, “*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*” What do you see as the correlation between Moses lifting up the snake on the pole in the wilderness and Jesus being lifted up?
9. It wasn’t actually the snake on the pole that allowed the people to live. What allowed them to live?
10. What allows us to live?

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

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly; Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you will have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP, p. 832