

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
Feb 19-24



## MONDAY, FEB 19, EXODUS 20:12-16

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

## PRAYER

When the ancient Israelites were a wandering people in need of direction and purpose, you gave them these (and other) commandments to live by. They were for them guideposts, a way to orient their lives and their hearts and find their bearings in the world. Help us, O God, in our Lenten wandering to cling to your commandments and use them as guideposts for our own lives. May the living out of your word bring purpose to our lives and meaning to our nothingness. Amen.

## AT A GLANCE

### THEMES

- Commandments
- Possessions
- Purpose

### SCRIPTURE

- Exodus
- Mark
- Romans
- 1 Timothy

## What's so good about lent?

"It is a season of non-commercial humility"

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

## TUESDAY, FEB 20, MARK 10:23-27

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

### PRAYER

Our things hold us back. They prevent us from taking risks. We believe they make us safe. We think they can make us feel important or loved or, at the very least, interesting. Too often, we set our hearts on our things and not you. Help us to be like the disciples your son first sent out into the world, carrying nothing with them, trusting in you and free of the burden of their stuff. Our safety comes from you, not our possessions. We are important, loved, and interesting because we are your children, not because of the things we possess. Help us to love our neighbors and not our stuff. Grant that we might find our identities in you and not in our things. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB 21, 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

### PRAYER

Can there be contentment in a broken and sinful world? Should there be? Paul isn't asking us to be content with hungry stomachs and harmful relationships. Rather, Paul is saying that we don't need to be constantly grabbing, scratching, and clawing after the next thing. The next thing won't make us happy if we aren't already content in you, O God. The next job, relationship, event, or digit in our account won't satisfy if we are not already satisfied by being your children. Everything that isn't you is a chasing after the wind. During this holy lent, help us to step away from our desire to chase after anything that isn't you. Amen.

**THURSDAY, FEB 22, MARK 10:28-31**

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Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

### **PRAYER**

In your infinite wisdom, O God, you did not make me the center of the universe. Good call on that one. It probably wouldn't have gone well. Rather, you created me to be a partner, a helper, an encourager, a part of a larger whole, and a member of your body. When, O God, I give myself to you and to your beloved community, that is when I come alive, that is when I am renewed, that is when I experience what it means to live with you and to have eternal life. Gracious Father, Loving Mother, grant me whatever it is I need to leave everything behind and follow you. Amen.

**FRIDAY, FEB 23, ROMANS 8:18-25**

O I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **PRAYER**

I am not the center of the universe, and yet there are those who wait with eager longing for me to reveal myself as your child, O God. There are those who depend on me to be as loving as I can. There are plenty who count on me to show them the peace which passes understanding. The world itself is longing for me to live responsibly and sustainably. I do not exist in isolation. I am a connected part of a whole, and what I do and how I do it matter. Though I am not and will not be perfect, help me, O God, to love you and my neighbors to the best of my ability. Amen.

## **SATURDAY, FEB 24, MARK 10:32-34**

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

## **PRAYER**

It is tough to hear these words over and over again, O God. But Jesus spoke them several times. Time and time again, he asked his disciples to face the reality of the world. And so, we too must face the reality of the world. Though it is hard, we must look upon the war, madness, and disappointment all around and ask what we can do to help. During lent, O God, help us to see the pain of others and if we need, recognize our own complicity within it. Help us, Dear Lord. It will be difficult. Amen.