

REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers
Feb 26-March 3



MONDAY, FEB 26, MARK 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

PRAYER

Gracious God, let me see again, for my heart has grown cloudy. Let me see as a child with boundless hope and earnest curiosity. Let me see as an elder with wisdom girded by experience. Let me see as a new believer overflowing with thanksgiving. Let me see as an old stalwart knowing I can rely on you. Clear from my heart the distractions of the world. Let me see you again. Amen.

What's so good about lent?

"Lent is an opportunity to reflect, intentionally, on our need for Jesus"

Greg Allen-Pickett

TUESDAY, FEB 27, MARK 11:12-16

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

PRAYER

I know, O God, what you have asked me to do. I've studied the scriptures. I've heard the prophets. You've asked me to produce not just fruit, but good fruit. I am one of those who you have called to bring peace, kindness, generosity, mercy, and forgiveness into the world. That is the good fruit you've asked me to make. People are hungry for good fruit. I will do my best to make it. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 28, MARK 11:20-25

In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Then Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

PRAYER

I ask, O God, for forgiveness for the times my callousness has caused pain and destruction for others. I ask for mercy for the moments I've put my wants in front of others' needs. I come to you trembling, with an earnest desire to do right by you and others. Forgive the withering I have caused. Help me to bring about new growth in you. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEB 29, MARK 11:27B-33

REPENT & BELIEVE

As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?” Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.” They argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘Of human origin?’” —they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

PRAYER

There is no shortage of people and institutions that would like to direct my living. I am inundated with requests from companies to adhere to their products and buy their things. News organizations implore me to live life by their priorities. Politicians decree that all is lost unless I follow them. All these things and many more want to assert their authority over me. And yet I desire to swear only to you, to let you be the guiding light in my life. Grant me, O God, a humble heart, strong in your will alone. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, MARK 12:1-9

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

PRAYER

If I am the vines, then help me make good fruit. If I am the tenant, then help hear your word. If I am the one you sent, then help me to follow your way. Amen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, PSALM 118:21-26

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

PRAYER

Through the mystery of faith, O God, you gave us Jesus the Christ. He came to us. Lived among us. Knew what it was to be human. He taught. He fed. He healed. He cried. He suffered. He died. Through the mystery of faith, he united us with you. For his birth, life, death, and resurrection, we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.