

Message Notes for March 14, 2021

Message Title: Who came into the world for us?

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. Luke 21:36 NRSV

“Standing with confidence before the Son of Man” no longer just refers to the end of time, but opens for me the possibility of living confidently, that is, with trust (the literal meaning of confide) in the midst of hostility and violence.

-Henri Nouwen, Behold the Beauty of the Lord

The life-giving question isn't, “What is the world coming to?”

The life-giving question is, “***Who came into this world for us?***”

- Lent is a time when _____ from all over the world, young and old, take up their crosses and let Jesus lead them closer to the Father as we pray, sacrifice, and help others more.
- Lent is a time to emphasize the _____.
- Lent is a time to practice the habit of making small _____ and also, following the example of Jesus, look for ways to _____ of ourselves.
- Lent is a time to remember that Jesus spent _____ alone in the desert, a time in which he fasted and prayed.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 6:25-26 NIV

This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer.

Isaiah 58:6-9a MES

As he stood in the Temple, he was watching the rich tossing their gifts into the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small copper coins. "Really," he remarked, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them combined. For they have given a little of what they didn't need, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."

Luke 21:1-4 LIV

The one who came into the world for us is _____.