

Care[†]the newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2019

LEST I FORGET GETHSEMANE

This month, Pastor Dennis looks at Lenten sacrifice and what it means. Some may never have even heard of it, others are committed to it whole-heartedly, and somewhere in between, you may be curious or confused. Let's read...

Easter is upon us, once again. All around me, I have been observing or hearing people sharing what they are giving up for Lent. People have given up all kinds of "stuff" for Lent. Some might have decided to take a fast from a favorite junk food, from red meat, or sugary snacks. Some people decide to fast from hobbies, or vices. I've even heard of people fasting from their social media outlets, such as Facebook or Twitter. While I think the discipline of fasting, in general, is a good spiritual discipline for us to exercise from time to time, for varying reasons, I've been curious as to why fasting for Lent has been an ever increasing trend.

The discipline of fasting is not a new concept. Scriptural examples are everywhere from Old Testament to New, including our Lord Jesus Christ, Who fasted for 40 days in the wilderness as He was led by the Spirit to do. Since 325 A.D., fasting for the Lenten season has taken on the 40 day time table (in commemoration of Christ's 40 days) when the Council of Nicea discussed it, although it's unclear as to whether it was for everyone in the Church to participate in or whether it was only

recommended to believers preparing for baptism. Nevertheless, here we are, many centuries later, observing 40 days of giving up "stuff" as a religious observance. So in thinking about it, I wondered about the ultimate example of fasting that this 40 day period of time was to commemorate and that is, the Lord Himself. And as I thought and studied, what struck me as all important was the information we are given in the text of God's Word. In Luke 4 we read, "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan [His baptism] and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

So Jesus fasted for 40 days, having been *led by the Spirit*. I wondered if everyone who felt led to fast was being led by the Holy Spirit to do so? Obviously, the answer would probably be no. My hope would be that we would at least begin to think about why we do what we do, no matter what the religious ritual or observance. So, why not start here, with fasting for Lent? Again, I want to say that I understand there to be a rich tradition

Mark Your Calendars (p.3)

**04.13 - Youth Go to Ethnos Ministries
- Calvary Kids Scavenger Hunt**

**04.19 - Good Friday
- Church Office Closes at Noon
- Good Friday Lord's Supper Service - 6:30 PM**

**04.21 - Resurrection Sunday
Regular Activities AM
No PM Activities**

04.26—Senior Adult Luncheon

04.27—Parents' Night Out

**04.28—Baptism Sunday AM
PM Schedule Resumes**

of fasting for Lent that has been present in the Church for centuries. I am not attempting to deny the legitimacy of this practice, but rather, I'd like to get to the heart of why it's done. If we give up "stuff" because we think in some way, we are more spiritual or we think we are focusing more on the things of God simply because we have placed ashes on our foreheads and have given "something" up, I believe we are wasting our time. God has never been moved by religiosity, in fact, He actually dislikes it. He says so on several occasions in the Old Testament (Amos 5 and Isaiah 1 and 58). Why did He feel this way? If you look at the texts, the people of Israel who were performing these rituals of denying themselves, otherwise known as asceticism, had forgotten the Lord in the midst of all the observances. They thought doing these things would maintain a "rightness" with God, but it did not. It actually began to offend God. I suppose none of us would appreciate a party thrown in our honor where everyone seemed to be having a fantastic time talking and visiting with each other, but where no one talked to us. And as the honoree, we were actually ignored. Perhaps gifts were even brought, but no one checked to see if we opened them, appreciated the gifts, or even wanted them. On top of the offensiveness of that, perhaps people were actually acting inappropriately, fighting with one another, or talking poorly of the honoree's household members right in the middle of the party that was originally intended to honor them. The ritual of the party would lose its purpose and meaning, and in the end, we would not look forward to having a party thrown in our names any longer if they always functioned in this way. I realize that this party analogy is a very simplistic way of characterizing God's displeasure with ritual. But I think you get the point. (see Isaiah 58 for details)

So, back to fasting for Lent, and how one can be sure they are doing it for the right reasons? Let's start with "led by the Spirit." Let's be clear on the point that fasting is not something God has ever *required* His people to do. We do see examples, such as Esther, where the Lord sees the heart of His people pointed toward Him in a common plea and He responds. In the case of Jesus, we see that the Spirit led Him (Jesus) into the wilderness, where He fasted. Have we allowed the Lord to lead us to this place of fasting? Have we asked Him what He thinks of it? Or do we just expect Him to receive it gladly because, after all, we just quit eating chocolate for 40 whole days! Can you begin to see how the "party" we are throwing isn't really that thrilling to its intended recipient? Especially when we have chosen the timing of our fast, what we are giving up, how giving this thing up will benefit us, how we expect it to honor the Lord, etc.

So what, do we throw fasting away? Do we allow the pendulum to swing all the way to one side and say, "No fasting for Lent!" Well, not only are

we now replacing one "law" for another, but we might miss out on an wonderful opportunity if we go that far. Why not begin where Jesus did, and that is seeking the opinion of the Lord by getting alone with Him and asking Him? Can we borrow another example from Jesus? Can we remember His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane? He knew what had to be done, He was willing to do it, and ultimately we see that He did. Why agony? Because He understood the price that would have to be paid. He understood what He was giving up and what would be gained as a result. He asked if there was another way, but He knew there was not. His example to us was that He was willing to submit to the will of the Father. Can we say the same?

I believe we must approach fasting as something sacred. We must ask the Lord about it, listen closely for His response and then obey what He tells us to do next. If indeed during a season of fasting, the Lord would reveal to us things that might be getting in the way of what He would accomplish in us and through us, then we must see it as sacred. Lenten fasting would become a stepping stone in our relationship to the Father rather than a season that comes and goes. If we were to view it as a launching point to a higher ground in our faith, in our walk, in our commitment to lay down our will and take up His, perhaps it would not only last 40 days. Maybe this is why some people don't have a problem with the question of what happens after the 40 days are over.

I'm not suggesting the Lord would necessarily have you give your "stuff" up forever. But He might and what if He did? Would we be willing to allow Him to show that to us? Are we ready for the Father to be that honest with us? I pray that we would be. Let's never forget the agony of Gethsemane and what followed on the cross hours after. But also remember the victory that was won through that One surrendering to the will of the Father. Can we say we are "*looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*"? (Hebrews 12:2) In the verses that follow this one, the writer of Hebrews tells us that we should *remember* so that we do not get discouraged when we are asked to "suffer" or set down sin. We have not resisted to the point of bloodshed, after all. But He did. And praise God for His obedience! Happy Pre-Easter season Church! I'm looking toward Resurrection Sunday, with anticipation, and in the meantime, may you seek His will above all else, and may you be obedient to what He will ask you to do.

Because of Christ,
Bro. Dennis

"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

—Hebrews 12:2-4—

*King of my life,
I crown Thee now
Thine shall the glory be
Lest I forget Thy
Thorn-crowned brow
Lead me to Calvary*

*Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary*

*May I be willing,
Lord, to bear
Daily my cross for Thee
Even Thy cup of grief to share
Thou hast borne all for me*

*Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary*

*From the hymn entitled,
"Lead Me To Calvary" written by
Jennie E. Hussey, and put to
music by William J. Kirkpatrick*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting	2 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting	3 Timothy Moss Jr Regular Schedule	4 Peyton Bryson 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	5	6 Dennis Spire
7 Regular AM & PM Schedule	8 2 PM Life Care Creations Outreach/Visitation 7 PM	9 Pat Brewington <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting	10 Regular Schedule	11 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	12 Cailey Hernandez	13 Judy Rosales Paul Turnini 1—6 PM -Youth to SA for Ethnos Ministries -Calvary Kids Scavenger Hunt
14 Jan Hamilton Regular AM & PM Schedule	15 Outreach/Visitation 7 PM	16 Nancy Rodriguez <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting	17 Ruth Carnes Hien Printy Regular Schedule	18 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	19 Office Closes Noon 6:30 PM Good Friday Lord's Super Service	20
21 Loyjean Matlock Sherry Leach Easter Sunday Regular AM Schedule NO PM ACTIVITIES	22 2 PM Life Care Creations Outreach/Visitation 7 PM	23 Carol Goodwin <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting	24 Regular Schedule	25 Wanda Lyon 6:30 PM Praise Team & Band Rehearsal	26 12:00 PM Sr. Adult Potluck Luncheon 5-9 PM Parents'	27 7:30 AM CBC Men's Breakfast @ Café de Lorenzo's
28 Baptism Sunday Regular AM/PM Schedule	29 Outreach/Visitation 7 PM	30 <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30—Meeting				

Easter Initiative 2019

Check out
Kiosk #1

- Use Invitation Cards to hand to someone and personally invite them!
- Hang a poster in a place of business *
- Sign up to get a YARD SIGN and place it in a strategic location *
- Hand out fliers or place a stack on a table *

You can be creative in your approach to inviting others! Let's get the word out!

*Please do not place any materials in mailboxes or on properties without permission.



EASTER INITIATIVE

Hand Someone A Card to Personally Invite Them!

Join Us @ 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

| *His Great Sacrifice*

Share regular activity information on the back! 



1906 N Interstate 35
San Marcos, TX
512-353-8540
www.calvarysanmarcos.com

- Nursery for NB-Toddlers
- Sunday School for ALL ages
- Discipleship Classes (Adult, Women, Couples, and Co-Ed)
- Kids Praise Choirs (PK—5th)

We are a "Ministry of the Heart". All children's ministry areas, including nursery & kids' Sunday school, are equipped with screens and monitors for the safety and welfare of every child that comes into our care.

*Ministry of the Heart is a trademark of Stone National Church. We are not affiliated with or associated with Stone National Church, including background checking, and safety systems.

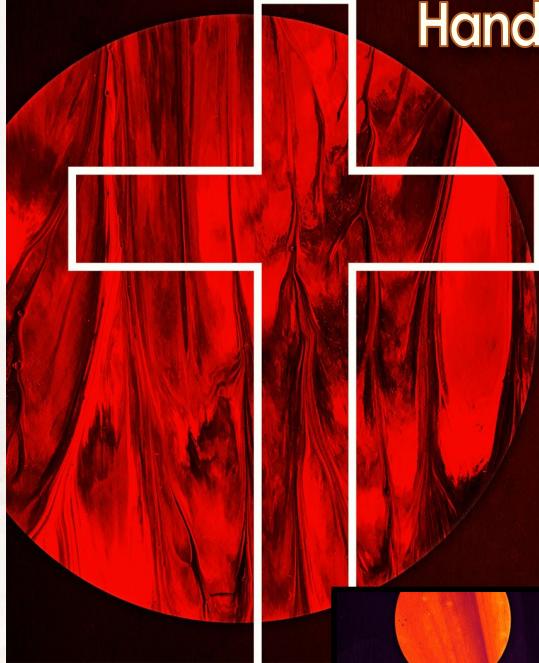
Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays

9:15 AM—Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM—Worship Time
6:00 PM—Discipleship Classes

Wednesdays

5:15 PM—Church-Wide Dinner
6:30 PM
Youth Pathway
Adult Prayer & Bible Study
Mission Kids (PK—5th grade)



Strike up a conversation about Easter weekend and invite people to check out CBC!



Hang a poster in a place of business, or distribute some flyers!

OR



Grab a yard sign and place it in a strategic place!



18 x 24 yard sign stakes included full-color

Take your pick of these resources at auditorium Kiosk #1, and invite someone this week!





LIVING PROOF *live*
WITH BETH MOORE
WORSHIP WITH TRAVIS COTTRELL
SEPT 13-14, 2019 | AUSTIN, TX

EARLY BIRD RATE \$69

(Group Rate Deadline Has Passed)

You can still join the CBC group and attend together!
See Nancy Anderson or Loyjean Matlock for information.

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**SATURDAY,
MARCH 30
@ 8:00 AM**

All Men Welcome **FISHERS Men**



**Meeting at
Solid Rock
Church**



COMMUNITY-WIDE MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Nursery
Workers
Needed**

Volunteer Today
Contact Emma McDaris, Nursery Coordinator
210-557-2340
emma@calvarysanmarcos.com



**Calling crafty, creative, and
handy men and women!**

LifeCare Creations invites those who love to use your hands, your tools, your creativity, and a love for ministry to serve SMTX families or individuals who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The sky's the limit on what creative things we might craft to bless a single mother or a young couple.

Contact Diana Owen at 512-787-8497
or dianalowen@aol.com.

**Calvary
Kids!**

**One Child.
One Story.
One Savior.**

Sunday School for all ages—9:15 AM Sundays

Preschool Children's Church—10:30 AM, Rm 126
for all children ages 3 ^{1/2}— Kinder

Kids Praise Choirs—6:00 PM Sundays

"Teaching Children to Celebrate God Through A Lifestyle of Worship"
A graduated choir program for Pre K—5th grade

**KIDS
ENCOUNTER**

At Kids Encounter, we want to give kids the opportunity to "encounter" Jesus, and understand the Gospel by learning how to hide God's Word in their hearts!

**Pre-K - 5th grade
Room 213
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM**



Look us up on social media by name!

*For more information about
Calvary Kids, contact Sarah Trumbull
@ 512-353-8540 or 512-393-4744
or sarah@calvarysanmarcos.com*

WEDEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Third
Saturday of
the Month

FAITH, FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP

Cafe de Lorenzo's, 4/27 @ 7:30 AM

Parents' Night Out

4/27/19
5 - 9 PM

Parents, enjoy a night out or some time to yourselves
knowing your children are well-cared for and having fun!

ALL FOR FREE! Food will be provided.

(Please notify Sarah if your child has food allergies or dietary restrictions.)

Contact Sarah Trumbull @ 512-393-4744 (cell) 512-353-8540 (office)
or sarah@calvarysanmarcos.com

FREEDOM FROM HURTS, HABITS, & HANG-UPS
**CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**
TUESDAYS @ 6:30 PM

contact bob@calvarysanmarcos.com

Dinner - 6:00 PM

Children (PreK-5th) - Celebration Place

Youth (6th-12th) - The Landing

**SUMMER
CAMP**
SCHOLARSHIPS

Perhaps you don't
have kids at home any
longer or haven't
started your family
yet, but would like to
help a young person attend camp.
You can help in full or in part.
Whatever you feel led to offer.
See a staff member for info!