



Growing Faith

09 - February Half Term | 11 February 2022

A thought for Lent

Written by Wesley Davitt, Year 13:

We are soon approaching Lent and you are probably deciding what you might give up this year. What is the point? A time to give up chocolate or crisps? No, Lent is a time of penance and preparation. Preparation for what though? In Lent we imitate the desert wanderings of Jesus Christ, where Christ fasted for forty days and nights after his baptism.

All through the Bible there is a recurrence of the number 40 as a symbol of trial and testing, the 40 days and nights of rain for the flood, the 40 years of the desert wanderings after passing through the red sea. What is it for? Each time there is the symbol of water, and a period of transition. Let us look at these to show us what we need to get from this Lenten season.

The flood is a dark story. God, in his horror at the cruelty of man, decided to wipe out the world, all except the one righteous family left. The flood was a period of cleaning the world, the transition from cruelty and sin, to the world in which God would eventually redeem mankind. So, Lent is a time in which we must cleanse our world, ask yourself is your world ready to receive God's plan. It is not a pleasant time; things must be purged but it is the only way for the rainbow to be seen.

Next let us look at the desert wanderings. Now it was not the first plan for God to send his people into exile, the original plan was to bring his people straight from slavery to the promised land and into the covenant. However, the Israelites got there and feared the people already there, they were challenged and said they could not win. Despite God freeing them from the largest nation of their time, they were scared and didn't follow God. They did not want victory but rather wished to go back to the comfort of slavery and so they had to wander through the desert. They had to be purified, Israel had to be cleansed and similarly to the flood only two from the people who lived in Egypt saw the promised land. Now that is a sobering thought. *"For many are called, but few are chosen"* Matt 22:14

We have been called but we must be prepared; we must wander the desert, remain faithful, let us be tried, tempted, and yet still follow what God prepared for us, for Christ has prepared victory for us like he did for Joshua.

Finally, we have the example of Christ's wanderings and temptations:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him,

"Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Christ underwent this period before he began his ministry, before we can begin what God has prepared for us, we are tempted we are given a trial, but victory awaits. This Lent we imitate Christ; I am not saying you should fast from food and water for 40 days and nights but take time to pray every day. Think about how you might need to be prepared for Christ's plan for you.



A Prayer

By Liliana Ismail, Year 10:

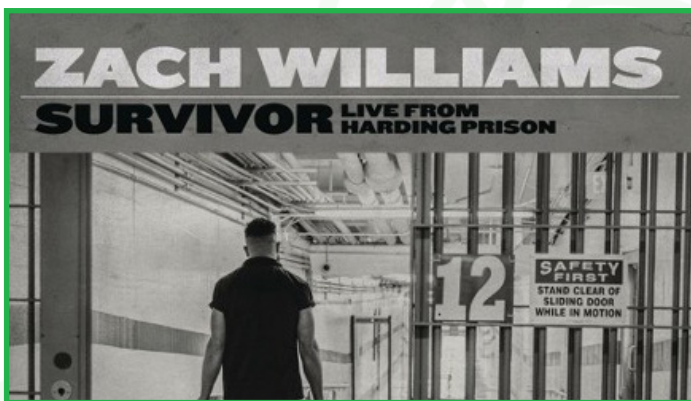
Dear Lord,

Thank you for the new year ahead for us. Help us live the way we should set by the example of your son.

As each day goes by, give us strength and courage in our lives and help me fill my day with your love and the happiness you bring.

Amen

Song for the Reflection



“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

School Song


Why not sing along to 'Before the throne of God above' as we worship together.

BEFORE THE THRONE
OF GOD ABOVE

**“When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me”**

Lyrics from “Before the throne of God above”



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