

LENT DEVOS:

Monday

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24 How has knowing that your sins are forgiven healed you spiritually? How has it healed you emotionally? How has it healed relationships? *Thank you God for the healing that you have provided for me. I want to live in that healing today.*

Tuesday

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 14:12 We have all lived this verse and the regret that comes with it! What choices can you make at the crossroads that can help lead you to life-giving decisions? *Father, I want to make choices that lead to life. Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to hear your voice above all others – including my own!*

Wednesday

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus), and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” Colossians 1:19-20 To be reconciled is to be brought back in to the right relationship. This is both a once-for-all process (our salvation) and a daily process (our sanctification). What areas of your life right now need to be reconciled? *Lord, I am grateful that through Jesus I can be made right with you. Please give me the courage to live a reconciled life today.*

Thursday

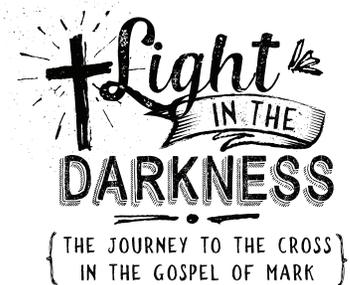
“When you were dead in your sins...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.” It can be hard to remember and live in the utter completeness of our forgiveness in Christ. How can living as someone indebted (instead of someone forgiven) impact your choices and relationships? *Father, I want to live in the joy of your forgiveness. Please remind me today of who I truly am in you.*

Friday

“But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:13 Write down three things today are true because you have been “brought near to God” through Jesus. *God, I revel today in my closeness with you. Please continue to draw me closer to you with each passing today.*

Saturday

The big idea from last weekend’s sermon: When I face life’s crossroads and failures, run to the cross. How have the week’s scripture readings reminded you of the power of the cross? How can this change the way you respond to life’s failures (in yourself and others)?



PART 5: THE ARREST

VALERIE WEBB
MARCH 17 & 18

THE STORY:

- Jesus gets up from his time of pleading and prayer with his Father filled with confidence and courage. (Mark 14:41-42)
- Judas, one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, already made a deal with chief priest to betray Jesus at an opportune time. (Mark 14:10-11, John 12:4-6)
- An armed “crowd” comes to take Jesus away for his trial. This includes soldiers from the temple guard and regular folks attracted to the growing mob mentality.
- The gospels of Luke and John tell us that Peter was the disciple who drew his sword and cut off the servant’s (Malchus) ear and that Jesus healed the man before he was led away. (Luke 22:49-51 & John 18:10)
- The Sanhedrin was a group (71 members) of Jewish religious leaders who (according to the Talmud) had to be either: former High Priests, representatives of 24 priestly castes, scribes, doctors of the law or representatives of the most prominent families (defined as those whose daughters were allowed to marry priests). They functioned as the Supreme Court for Israel.
- Within twelve hours of these events, Jesus will be dead, hanging on the cross.

FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY:

JUDAS: _____

PETER (& all the disciples): _____

RELIGIOUS LEADERS: _____

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

BIG IDEA:

When facing life’s crossroads and failures, run to the _____.

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Peter 2:24-25