



Ash Wednesday, Lent

Feb 25, 2015

What is Lent

- Lent is the season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on:
 - a. Penitence- The action of felling or showing sorrow and regret from having done wrong. Synonym- Repentance
 - b. Reflection- What have I done for Jesus
 - c. Fasting- Normally people will give up something during lent (SA Pop, Chips, Ice Cream, Cigarettes) Trying to become closer to God/Jesus

It prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we have obtained his grace.

Why do we observe Lent?

- Prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we have obtained his grace. (Helps us get in the right frame of mind for what Jesus did for us.)
- Start of Lent- 40 days excluding 6 Sundays before Easter (Sundays are not counted because they are considered little Easters)
- Jesus Baptism- the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Directly following Jesus baptism, as told in Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. Where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry.
- This year started Feb 18, (different each year depending on when Easter falls)
- WHAT ARE WE WILLING TO GIVE UP FOR JESUS- (He gave his life for us)

What is Ash Wednesday?

1. The first day of Lent –Always starts on a Wednesday
2. Christian Holiday (Holy Day)



3. Ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross of worshipers, reminders of our mortality and sinfulness.
4. Genesis 3:19-God told Adam after they sin.....for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. (Basically says that one day we will all die).

Why Ashes?

- Job 42:6 Wherefor I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes
- The ashes are to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on earth but we can have everlasting life with Jesus Christ
- It is a symbol of your love for God..Not scared of being different

Where does the Ashes come from?

- Blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year
- Palm Branch- Matthew 21:1-11- Jesus rode into Jerusalem in verse 8 people cut down branches from the trees to place on the ground while Jesus rode into Jerusalem.
 1. These same people who through the branches down would be the same people to bow to political pressure and desert him in just a few day...
 2. Do we ever do that – Praise him one min then do something against him the next

Summary

- Easter Is all about the great that Jesus did for us
- We can not forget that he died and suffered on the Cross. The purpose of lent is that we come closer to God but realizing what he did for us...His sacrifice is a lot greater that ours.
- Lent- Do for the right reasons- do so that you can become closer to God. If we are doing it so that we look more Christian or look what I am doing for God (that is the wrong reason). Matthew 6:1-2...God died so that we could have a personal relationship with him.