



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 26, 2023

"What is the purpose of Lent"

*"Lent is traveling from where we are now to somewhere new
– and hopefully better!"*

*Jesus: "Do not take a purse or bag or sandals. Keep it simple;
you are the equipment." (from Luke 9 and 10)*

"What is the purpose of Lent?"

Traditionally, Lent was a time when converts to Christianity prepared for baptism and membership in a Christian community. It was also a time when those who had strayed from the Church were reconciled and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Both traditions are still practiced today. At the same time Lent has become a time of spiritual journey for all who are "traveling from where they are now to somewhere new – and hopefully better" – and not just for people preparing for baptism.

Think about preparing for a journey. We lay out what we think we need. Clothes, shoes, maps, snacks, drinks, and "things we might need...just in case." But, how many times have we returned from trips to find we only used fewer than half of the things we took! The unused baggage just weighed us down.

For our Lenten journey, what do we need to pack? Many people choose to take on new things for Lent. The problem with that is maybe we are taking on too many things already. Our bags are full. Our energy is low. If we want to have a meaningful journey for Lent, maybe we better travel lightly!

*Jesus: "Do not take a purse or bag or sandals... Keep it simple;
you are the equipment."*

Jesus had good advice for the Apostles and Disciples He sent on their first journey to preach the Gospel. Travel lightly, Jesus said, and be prepared to leave behind or replace unused and undesirable baggage. The Lenten journey requires two actions, turning away from an old way of life and turning to a new and better one. What to take and what to leave on our Lenten journey is for us to ponder.

Prayer Box

Pray for the people of Turkey, Syria, Russia, and Ukraine; people in the US suffering from severe winter weather; Joyce waiting for medical care. Lord, hear our prayer!

Reading Scripture Deeply:

If you are taking on new Bible reading regimen for Lent, here is an idea for making that time with Scripture go deeper.

Pick a Bible passage (like the ones suggested in our last "Blast" for the Gospel of Matthew). Read it three times in this manner:

After 1st reading, ask "what words or phrases stand out for me?"

After 2nd reading, ask "what is my message is in this scripture passage?"

After 3rd reading, ask "what is the Gospel calling me to do?"

Some other ideas: (1) this is a good journaling technique; (2) use a different Bible translation for each reading.

Questions? Let Vance know!

Gospel for 2-22: Matthew 5:1-7:29

The Message of This Reading:

Chapters 5-7 are known as "The Sermon on the Mount," a collection of Jesus' teachings recognized as the foundation of Christian ethics and morality. In these chapters, Jesus presents a radical vision of the kingdom of heaven and calls his listeners to a life of holiness and obedience to God.

These teachings have had a profound impact on the world and have been a source of inspiration and guidance for countless generations of Christians.