

My Preparation for Easter

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter. However, without my heart and life being ready, I may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with my brothers and sisters, I commit myself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below, I make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks: (Check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

Inward and Personal Disciplines

- Spend time in solitude each day.
- Read a book for inner growth.
- Read twice through the Gospel of Luke.
- Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
(Prayer Retreat, 2/28, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
- Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- Take control of my life by _____.
- Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
- Forgive someone who has hurt me.
- Dance my prayers to a favorite CD.
- Other promptings:

Outward and Social Disciplines

- ___ Take on some loving task: _____
- ___ Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- ___ Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- ___ Attend the special services with Mike Rayson, March 5-7.
- ___ Attend the *Iron Sharpens Iron* event (March 13) or Beth Moore simulcast (April 24)
- ___ Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
- ___ Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.
- ___ Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.
- ___ Give blood and recall the cross.
- ___ Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- ___ Pray to God to help me resist racial prejudice and to give me courage in opposing it.
- ___ Decide to become a member of the church and speak to a pastor or lay leader.
Pastor's Luncheon, March 21, 12:30 p.m.
- ___ Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.
- ___ Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by _____
- ___ Other outward and social promptings:

As a way of being accountable, I will:

- ___ Share my plan with at least one other person and share with that person my experience of Lent during Holy Week.

(signed) _____

(date) _____

Keep this for reference during the coming weeks.