



On the Same Page

“To these (Jesus) also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3 NAS95)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Forty days and Nights

Sunday, March 12, 2017

The blues band Shirley Jones and the Dap-Kings used to sing the song “100 days, 100 nights To know a man's heart. And a little more Before he knows his own.” She goes on and sings “You know a man can play the part of a saint just so long. For a day comes when his true, His true self unfolds. Yes it does.” Poor Shirley wasn't so sure a mere “40 days and nights” were sufficient to avoid getting taken. But the Bible indicates that 40 days and nights reveal quite a bit about what one truly believes; and whom one truly worships.

We first come across God's use of “40 days and nights” in Genesis 7, when God sends a worldwide rain to wash the earth of its wickedness. It is devastating. All the world populations perishes except for those eight from Noah's family preserved on the ark. An implication of “40 days” is that this period is useful for cleansing, though not ultimately, since Noah and his family remained flawed.

In Exodus, Moses spends “40 days and nights” on the mountain, fasting, and receiving from God the 10 commandments. One could associate this as a suitable time period to spend seeking to study and discern God's will. We also note that in Moses' re-telling of the story in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses came down from the mountain only to find the people immersed in idolatrous sin, and so he broke the tablets of stone containing the Law. After dealing with the people, he returned to the mountain again and spent another 40 days fasting and meeting with God. Again, 40 days may help us in knowing God's will, but it does not deal effectively with the sin problem.

The Bible goes on to speak of “40 days” in relation to Elijah and Ezekiel; Jonah, and then Jesus. God uses these periods of time to rest, and test; to preach, and to prepare. There is nothing magic about 40 days. But time spent with God, in the absence of a hundred other distractions, is a deep soul-need for all us who suffer from our condition of being over-marketed and under-meditated.

Our church tradition doesn't do much with Lent, that 40 day period this year, which began March 1 through April 15 (excepting Sundays) in which many Christians seek to invest time with God in order to practice cleansing, or attentiveness, etc. Perhaps you need to take some time as well.

By the way, Shirley Jones died this past year. I hope that she was able to take 40 days, or 100, to explore the depths of her own soul, and to find the only One upon whom any of us, man or woman, can truly count.

Martin Luther, commenting on [1 Peter 2:1](#), and relating to [Ephesians 4:25](#):

It is the truth when yes means yes and no means no. But it is hypocrisy when the outward bearing belies one's thoughts. For it is important to behave according to what is in the heart. A Christian must act in such a way that he can let everybody see and know what he thinks in his heart. In all his behavior and in everything he does he must think only of praising God and serving his neighbor. He should fear no one. And at heart everyone should be what he appears to be. He should not resort to dissimulation and in this way cause people to gape.

Martin Luther's Works, The Catholic Epistles. Concordia, 1967, p. 48

News and Notes

Time change (Spring forward) is this Sunday, March 12.

Don't be late for Sunday School!

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Pastor Steve will use **this 2nd week of Sunday School combined session to present lessons and challenges from the recent missions trip to Togo, W. Africa** with CWE, sharing the Gospel with Togolese people before and after their medical appointments. Plan to join us each week at 9:45 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study, studying 1 Peter, meets each Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Awana clubs meet on Wednesdays, 6-7:39 p.m. for children ages 3 through 5th grade.

Men of Action breakfast and meeting is next Saturday, March 18, 7:30 a.m., studying and discussing Romans 12:1,2



Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, March 12, we consider the 2nd temptation of Jesus, and think about the temptation to misuse our created need to worship.

Last Sunday, March 5, we gathered for **Lord's Table** and began a 3-week mini-series on **the temptations of Jesus**, found in Luke 4:1-13, called "Learning Obedience."

Sunday School classes will combine on Sunday mornings for one more week to

hear Pastor Steve's Togo report. Join us at 9:45 a.m. Regular classes will resume next week, March 19.



Saying 'No' to the misuse of words
(Luke 4:1-4)
Sunday, March 5 @ 11

Saying 'No' to the misuse of worship
(Luke 4:5-8)
Sunday, March 12 @ 11

Saying 'No' to the misuse of willfulness
(Luke 4:9-13)
Sunday, March 19 @ 11

Learning Obedience
Jesus' Temptations in Luke 4

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