

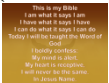


Welcome to the new Lent series heading into Easter called:
“Giving it up- Part 1: Control” 3-12-17

Please catch last week’s sermon “10 Do’s Part 1” ENJOYLWC.com or DiscoverLighthouse.org
 Also find the “BEACON Devotional” at the website.

U **We like to start with something funny each week:** Unfortunately many homes, yes even so-called Christian homes, are like the one in which the little girl pointed to the Bible on the mantle that was never opened, and said to her mother, **“Whose book is that?”**
 Her mother was quite startled and said , **“Why honey, don't you know? That is God's book!”** The child said simply: **“Don't you think that we had better give it back to him?”**

(the end of that was “No one here ever reads it.” ☺ OOOOh....



We have a tradition: Grab your Bible and hold it up today:
“THIS IS MY BIBLE
I am what it says I am!
I HAVE what it says I Have!
I CAN DO what it says I can do!”
Today I WILL be taught the Word of God,
I boldly CONFESS: My Mind is Alert, my Heart is Receptive,
I will NEVER be the same, In Jesus name. (Pray)



This new 40 Days Lenten series is entitled “GIVING IT UP”: We need to throw the white flag in the right areas! Amen!

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. **For us Today, it’s choosing to give up the ways in us that are “Unlike Christ” so that we may become BE MORE LIKE JESUS.**

Why 40 Days???

HEBREW MOMENT with Pastor Cheryl:

Why 40? What is the significance of that number?

The number 40 is written like you see on the screen with the letter **“MEM”**

- **40 in the Bible represents TESTING or TRIAL**
 - 40 days and nights of rain for Noah

- 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness
- 40 days of Fasting by Jesus in the desert

But there is something else in Jewish thought, that can help us understand the meaning behind our number – 40.

- **There are 40 weeks of gestation until birth.**
 - a beginning (conception, crisis moment)
 - a waiting period (combination of pain and anticipation)
 - and a new beginning (new life, new creation)

As best seen in the Israelites wandering in the desert.

- Beginning – Exodus (crisis)
- Waiting period - wandering (pain and anticipation of Promised land)
- New beginning - entering into Canaan (new leadership, relationship with God)

The point of “40 days” for us and why participate in Lent is more than giving up chocolate for 40 days and then binging on day 41.

- It’s **entering a “crisis moment”** when you decide, I’m going to do this. I’m going to give this up to God (excitement, crisis)
- Then enduring a **season of waiting**, (experiencing some pain and some joyful anticipation of what is to come),
- and then **enjoying something new**, (you are a new creation, because of the testing, you have fully matured and something new is born)

That’s why “40 “ is important to you today.

For more on this topic check out the following website:

http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Mem/mem.html

That was the “Genuine Jewish Moment with Genuine Jewish Music!”

PR: Today we want to talk to you about “Giving up CONTROL.”

- **Think REMOTE CONTROL!**
 - (Any TV REMOTE HOGS in the room?? Just point at them now! Ha)
 - I gathered remotes from my living room (just the ones there and not used!
- Let’s face it, AMERICANS LOVE CONTROL!
 - **Name some things we like to feel in control over:** (shout some things out!)
 - **What show we watch on Tv!**
 - **Who likes us!**
 - **Money!**
 - **Anyone married to a blanket thief! Especially in this cold snap! I will prove it is HER cuz that is where all the blankets are in the morning! Tug of war!**
 - **Body Image!**
 - **What we choose for dinner!**
 - **Our schedule!**



- **People (if that were possible- lol)**

Proverbs 16:9 “In their hearts humans plan their course (we like control!), but the Lord establishes their steps.”

- (The sooner we learn that we are not in control nor do we want to be, the sooner the **Lord establishes our steps!**) **Amen!**

Off we go to the desert Where Jesus is tempted by satan.....



Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights (time of testing), he was hungry. (that might have been the most understated verse in the Bible “He was hungry”. Put that in your notes!) Why would Jesus be allowing satan to tempt him in the desert?? SO that He could know what it’s fully like to be human! So we couldn’t say “You don’t understand what I am going through Jesus!”)



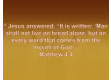
1] ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (In other words “be SELFISHNESS Jesus! You have the power to change your circumstance! Serve yourself JESUS!”)

- **Just sayin, but no matter how many times I speak to the rock I couldn’t make bread!**
- **Why did I just make that corny joke to you!???**
 - **To point out that YOUR WEAKNESSES are where satan will strike you down first! Your strengths (PRIDE) is where he will strike you down next!**
- **NOTE TO SELF: We are most vulnerable to fall to temptation when**
 - **Alone.** (“I am the only one going thru this” satan whispers in your ear – the **POWER of CONQUER GROUP** is doing it as ONE! 32 of us!)
 - **When tired or Hungry** (leads to many outburst sins against others! Get the food & rest you need before you fall)
 - **When dealing with stressful decisions** (don’t make life altering decisions in the heat of any moment or under distress! **COOL OFF**, get counsel from who? **JESUS - BIBLE**)

Again: ³ The tempter came to Jesus and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

What ‘s our selfish temptations? (shout some out! GO! I don’t wanna name a few)

- **To leave the cart in the parking lot!**
- **To keep that tithe to myself because I can get more worldly stuff.**
- **To take the spots closest to church! (oops. Sorry. I park in the lawn????)**
- **YOU GET THE PIONT!**



4 Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

Jesus is speaking about the Bible! His Word, read it. And you will become more **FREE FROM SELFISH DESIRES.**

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interest of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

The second area Jesus Tempted to use His power and position to test God: Manipulation.



2] **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** **“If you are the Son of God,”** he said, **“throw yourself down.**



For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” (satan quoted scripture! **CAN YOU!??**)

Satan is tempting Jesus to take control of his destiny or **Manipulating** of God! (forcing God's hand!) **Remember that didn't work out so good for Judas later on.**

- **I have the Arial Antenna remote control for TV (and it works when the stars align just right on cloudless days! You have one of those devices!?! I have to go manipulate it an inch with a long pole “can u see anything now??? Did they score!!!?? Digital mess!)**
- **God does know that there are things you are IN CHARGE OF!**
 - **Maybe you are a boss at your office, or a manager**
 - **At school it is your responsibility to get your homework done and in on time!**
 - **At home it's your responsibility to pay the electric/ heat/ etc.**

1 Cor. 10:31 ³¹ **So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.** ³² **Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—** ³³ **even as I try to please everyone in every way. **For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.****

1 **Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ**

That is the DEFINITION of GIVE UP THE CONTROL! And it has the REASONS WHY!!



7 Jesus answered satan, **“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”** Know how to answer the enemy by knowing (putting to memory) Bible verses to help!

Can we say like Paul, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” Does that statement work with what you just said? Did? Etc?

Finally:



3] ⁸ Again, the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” **HOW IRONIC!! HOW RICH!!!** Jesus was there at Creation and Made the Universe and all 100 million galaxies with their 100 million stars and **WOW!**

Satan running out of stuff to trick Jesus with pulls the “splendor” / All that glitters CARD on Jesus! Worldly Pleasures Card! “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Illustration: I found remote controls for my 4 or 5 old stereos, but don’t have them anymore!

Satan wants you to THINK you have all these things under your control..... BUT HERE’S THE CATCH ! THAT REMOTE HE GAVE YOU DOESN’T HAVE A RECEIVER!

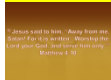
What’s behind door #3???? GUILT. SHAME. CONDEMNATION. BROKENNESS!

The devil wantd you to **GIVE UP ETERNITY FOR THE SHORT TERM!** Listen, you will “Reap what you sow!” The one who sows to please the spirit from the spirit will reap eternal life! But the one who sows to please the sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction!

GIVE UP THE WORLD’S CONTROL OVER YOU for LENT and the rest of your life!

- Give up control that the Donut shop has on you!
- Give up control that the video games have on you!
- Give up control that your secular friends have on you!
- Give up control and bondage of alcoholism!
- Give up the control that your Doubts and Fears have over you!
- Give up control of the peer pressure at school and work!
 - YOU ARE NOT WHO MEN SAY YOU ARE! YOU ARE WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE!
- Give up control of that GOSSIP! If it doesn’t sound like it lines up with someones character please don’t go share it with others – go to the source and ask questions!
 - “Do to others as you would have them do to you!”
- GIVE UP CONTROL of the STORMS OF THIS LIFE!

Bible: Here is the ONLY CONTROLLER THAT ALWAYS WORKS! Doesn’t even need batteries! Who hoo!!!



¹⁰ Jesus response to satan’s offer of the world- He said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Praise is your ULTIMATE WEAPON!! Closeness with God, intimacy with GOD!



¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended Jesus.

WHEN WE PRAISE THE DEVIL CANNOT STAY! HE MUST LEAVE!

So we end with a song this morning as we hit prayer. I am INVITING YOU to please come to the alter to pray for anything today..... come as pastor Cheryl sings. Come.

Song: PR and PC to end with Peace song “Still”

Let's all pray this out loud together repeat after me "*Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat).*"

Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.