

'THE REST OF THE STORY'
(Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth about Ministry)
Applying the life of Christ to our lives today

'The Lenten Special'



Description *(from Wikipedia)*

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial.

Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2019 – Thu, Apr 18

Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and some other Protestants have begun a 6-week religious time of self-denial and introspection called *lent*. Between *Ash Wednesday* and *Easter* (*their pagan religious name for 'Resurrection Day'*). *Lent* is an old Anglo-Saxon word '*lencten*' meaning '*spring*'. It is a religious ritual of self-purification recalling Jesus' 40-days of resisting temptation in the wilderness. It is supposed to be a time where, beginning with smearing ashes left from burnt remnants of palms used in the previous year's *Palm Sunday Service* on foreheads in the sign of a cross, followed by self-examination and self-sacrifice leading up to '*Resurrection Day*'.

People participating in this unbiblical ritual usually give up something they like and do things like not eating meat on Fridays to *get right with God* for the upcoming holy days of spring. Some restaurants even offer a *Lenten Special* that substitutes 'fish' (*declared by Catholics not to be meat*) for poultry or beef. In no way do the trivial sacrifices come anywhere close to Jesus' 40 days of eating nothing and only drinking a bare minimum of water. It does make some feel like they are doing something special that God will appreciate it and bless them. It is a poor substitute for genuine repentance from sin in general and a commitment to live a holy lifestyle all the time.

The *Lenten Special* that's much more pleasing to God is permanently turning from mere periodic religious piety and inferior good works to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, going to a good Bible-teaching church, and living a holy life all the time instead of a brief 40-day time of superficial spirituality. To offer God a true *Lenten Special* would be to not only discontinue a thing or two you don't really care much about anyway, but to become a member of a good church, to begin voluntary ministry and service on a regular basis, to tithe and give more generously than usual, and to actively tell others the true gospel of repentance, faith in the finished work of Christ, and receive the gift of eternal life found in the Savior. That would make this season of life (not just *lent*) very special to the Lord this time of year, all the time and forever.

PtL

Ministry: Spiritual & Physical Restoration

'Fixing the World's Problems, By the Book'

Luke 4:31-39 (*Mark 1:21-31, Matthew 8:14-17*)

Eviction of Spirits

(Casting out demons – then and now)

What are they?

Satan evicted from heaven
and 1/3rd of angels followed
after him

Isaiah 14:12-17

Ezekiel 28:11-17

Revelation 12:3-4

Job 1:6, 38:7

Why do they possess people?

• Before the flood:

Genesis 6:1-4

• To the abyss:

1 Peter 3:19-20;

2 Peter 2:14; Jude 6

• In Jesus' day:

Luke 8:28-31; Mark 8:17-29

How are they evicted?

Church Age:

Acts 5:3, 16;

Ch. 8, 13:6; 16:16; 19:11-16;

Ephesians 6:10-13;

Tribulation:

Revelation 9:6, 12:7-12,

16:13-14, 17:8; 18:2, 20:1-3

False teachers – *2 Peter 2:1-22, 1 John 4:1-6*

Occult, addictions, immorality, perversion - *Deuteronomy 18:9-14*

- Discuss why modern day healers rarely, if ever, 'cast out demons'?
- Discuss how demons get into people's lives (*oppression & possession*) by feeling welcome if they *flirt with* and *frequent* things dealing with the 'dark side' (*literature, movies, music, violent video games*).
- Discuss God's protection from the enemy according to Scripture (see *James 4:7-18, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6*)

Eviction of Sickness

(Correcting physical maladies – then and now)

What is the problem?

Sin entered the creation, so man no longer has full dominion over it and things go wrong in a broken world (including microscopic bacteria that cause disease, flaws in DNA, etc.) plus physical maladies occur

Why does God allow illness?

- To use it to bring people to salvation
- To perfect believers' faith
Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 1:6-8, 5:10
- To glorify the Lord when He heals
John 9:1-3
- To chastise disobedient believers
Hebrews 12: 4-11; 1 Cor. 11:29-30
1 John 5:16-17

How is it corrected?

James 5:13-16
Revelation 21:4
1 Corinthians 15:50-52
Romans 8:17-23

- Talk about how God sometimes uses physical maladies or illnesses to bring people to repentance and salvation.
- How can God use physical problems to bring us closer to Him or get victory over 'strongholds of sin' in our flesh?
- How can you tell if an illness is for spiritual growth or chastisement?
- Do you think 'faith healers' are from God instead of *James 5:13-16*? If not, what about 'faith healers' today? Would you go to a 'faith healer' or recommend a friend go to one? Why or why not?
- Why do you think 'healers' don't try to heal lepers, legally blind, or other more difficult maladies that Jesus and the apostles healed?