

LENT – A Time of Renewal

Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Every year, we celebrate Lent. This is the time to really contemplate on the passion of Jesus Christ, and the invitation for reconciliation. **Renewal** is beautiful, but it is only possible when there is openness in our hearts.

Gospel: "Take these out of here, and stop making My Father's house a marketplace" (John 2:13-25)



COLORS OF LENT

- Color of **L**onging
- Color of **O**neeness
- Color of **R**econciliation
- Color of **D**eath

The color of Lent is violet - the color of the L.O.R.D.

1. **Color of LONGING.** Longing means eagerness.

Jesus was longing to be with God.

1.1. Jesus was longing to go to Jerusalem, to be with God, to pray, to offer sacrifice, and repent. He was longing to see people wanting to see God. However, His excitement was met with anger at what He saw. The house of His Father had become a marketplace! The vendors were blocking people from entering and have an encounter with God. Jesus' anger was valid because He was angry with injustice, corruption, and the lack of love. Jesus was reviving the "sense of sin."

1.2. Anger is valid if we see something not good. Conversely, if we do not feel anger in front of injustice, then this is a sin because there is something wrong with our conscience. Indifference could be a great sin - when we do not care for others. We must be angry when our children live in sin or have vices.

1.3. The season of Lent is an invitation to long for God, to be open to God, so that He will come to us. Let us have a sense of sacredness inside the house of God. Be in silent reflection, longing to hear the voice of the Lord. Jesus begins and ends His day with prayer and contemplation.

2. **Color of ONENESS:** Red and blue make violet – this signifies the union of God and man.

2.1. The image of the Mother of Perpetual Help shows red as her inner color, a symbol of her humanity and blue as her outer color, signifying that Jesus is embracing her. The colors are reverse in Jesus. His inner color is blue (the embrace of God) while His outer color is red (humankind). This shows God's willingness to elevate our humanity.

3. **Color of RECONCILIATION:** Going to confession is an invitation to recognize our sinfulness.

3.1. The Lord is the first to call. Jonah was instructed to go to Nineveh to be an instrument for them to be reconciled.

3.2. There is a tendency to focus on the gift (blessings) and forget about the giver (God). Let us learn to be thankful. We are gifted to give and be a blessing to others.

3.3. When we receive reconciliation, we should be proclaimers of the good news to others. Lent is the season to surrender our sins. All sins are forgiven. Only those which are not acknowledged are not forgiven. When God tells us "I absolve you from your sins" this means our sins are deleted, erased, gone.

4. **Color of DEATH:** We are invited to die every day.

4.1. Death means we will be brought to Jesus. God invites us to go back to our life with Him. We must be ready to accept death.

4.2. Dying means to die to self. We can forego a premium coffee to buy more for the family; we could let go of our ego and choose to be humble.

Conclusion:

Lent is an invitation to die to our ego, to our essentials/comforts, to put ourselves last, and our loved ones first. Jesus obeyed the Colors of the L.O.R.D. Let us persevere in embracing our cross. This is the way to glorify the Father and feel His embrace.

Reflection:

1. Are we longing for a life filled with a state of grace? Have been accustomed to a state of sin?
2. Why are we afraid to face death? Why?

SCRIBES Ministry:

Transcribed by Jo Advincula

<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

Tags: #Lent, #Renewal