

## Sermon Outline - Sun, March 6, 2022 - Need Less/Give More: Lent as Reparation

Isaiah 58: 6-12, Luke 4:1-13

### Overview

This month we carry The Economy of Locust and Honey as we journey into the theme Need Less/Give More - where we will explore the season of Lent as an opportunity for radical and transformative practice...an opportunity to usher in Jubilee, to move God's kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven from memorized prayer to realized practice.

### Exegesis + Key Points

- What is lent?
  - Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at Sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation that eventually celebrates the Resurrection on Easter.
  - Season of Lent is modeled after Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness fasting, praying, and resisting temptation.
  - Jesus' time in the wilderness was not fasting for the sake of fasting but was a commitment to and calibration of God's call on Jesus' life and God's vision for the world.
- Lent is not only a season of preparation, but a season of reparation.
  - The Isaiah 58 text calls us to be "repairers of the breach." We live in a world filled with breaches, reminders of the ways we as people have betrayed our commitments to God, to one another, to all of Creation.
  - In Luke 4 text, Jesus recalls Isaiah text saying God has called him to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
  - Jesus' entire life - from conception to resurrection - is an act of reparation, a reminder of God's desire to restore and repair.
- We are a reparation people.
  - We are not God and thank God for it. We do not have the capacity to repair the whole of the world by ourselves, but we each have a body, with unique identities, experiences, relationships, talents, gifts, resources, perspectives, in a particular place and time, our hearts carry different wonderings and ponderings, our bones are strengthened by different ancestors and stories - our belovedness is manifested in so many beautiful ways.
  - Our task is to sift through the fullness of who we are and discern how we are uniquely able to respond as a reparation people - right now.

### Reflection Question & Response

1. **Prayer...when and who?** Get serious about your prayer practice. If Prayer Call is not your thing - find your thing. Nature walks, dancing, singing, painting, journaling - tune into the ways Spirit is communicating with you and make it a regular part of your routine. You don't have to do it alone! Find a prayer partner for deepened practice and accountability. What is your plan for prayer this Lenten season?
2. **Preparation...for what?** Take time to ground in what God' vision is for the world. What might Jubilee actually look like, feel like, taste like, sound like? Write down the particulars of what you believe God is calling forth in the world.
3. **Place + Positionality...where and who?** We are finite beings limited by the bounds of our bodies. Where are you? Who are you? What about your positionality in the world might reveal what breaches you might be called to repair?
4. **Practice...how?** Reparation is an action word. We are called, in this Lenten season, to respond. What practice might you incorporate that realizes God's vision of Jubilee here and now? How are you called to repair the breach right now?

\*NOTE: These questions are **not** hypothetical