

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

20 **Lent** 26

WEEK ONE:  
REPENTANCE

*The And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” - Isaiah 6:5*

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” - 1 John 1:9*

Last week, we took time to dwell on the depth and breadth of God’s character. When we consider his glory and holiness in light of our sin, the only right response is that of Isaiah’s in the throne room of the LORD: “Woe is me! For I am lost.”

When we sit honestly before God in our hearts, our masks fall away. In his light, we see ourselves more clearly, as we truly are. There is no pretending here. When we see God rightly, we can see our sin rightly—the sin that separates us from a holy and perfect God.

Yet, we have a choice.

We can either take his gift of clarity, or we can carry on in the delusion that everything is perfectly fine, even though deep down we know it's not. Are we willing to look at ourselves in God's perfect light?

Pride and fear wage war against us to keep us captive in our delusion. Pride insists, "I'm fine," while fear whispers, "What if I'm worse than I think?"

With God's empowering grace on our side, let's refuse to allow pride and fear to keep us tucked away in the shadows.

It is the gospel that gives us both the humility and courage to see the reality of our sin, rather than bowing to pride or cowering in fear. Our pride is leveled at the cross. On Good Friday, Christ gave his life in our place because we could never pay for our own sin. We needed a savior.

Our fear fades at the empty tomb of Easter morning. The risen Christ now has authority to forgive every sin of all who confess, believe, and follow him. Every sin. No matter how shameful. No matter how visible on the surface or buried in the depths of our hearts. Jesus paid it all. It is finished.

And, so, which will we choose? Will we remain in the shadows, or will we take hold of the gift of coming clean to a God who delights to forgive and cleanse us?

Spend time this week preparing your heart by confessing and repenting (turning away from) your sin.

Dare to really go there. Not just actions and behaviors, but motives, intentions, and desires as well. Those who know they have been forgiven much, love much.

Dare to do the hard work to see for yourself how far the grace of God truly reaches, and walk more in the abundant life that the work of Jesus has secured for you.