

Draw Closer to God and He will Draw Closer to You Rejoice

Lenten Reflection for the TASTE Program

March 16th, 2023

- *Opening Prayer (Philippians 4:4-7)*
- *Very brief overview of the six-part series of our Lenten Journey*
 - *Return to Me - Feb 23rd – Return to Me: Sorrow for our sins causes us to turn to God – Grace flows and for our part we must respond to His Grace)*
 - *Be Converted - March 2nd – Be Converted: Responding to God’s grace changes us. Transforms us. Heart mind and soul are not just oriented to God but are converted to be more and more holy.*
 - *Detest Your Sins – March 9th – we’re going to look really look at sin; we’re going to see it’s destructive effects on us and – when we see that, really see that, we don’t want it ever in our life.*
 - *Rejoice - March 16th – In the midst of Lent we will glimpse at Easter joy.*
 - *From Death to Life - March 23rd – this week follows “Detest your sins”; we’re going to look at death and life.*
 - *Embracing the Cross - March 30th – That’s right we’re going to embrace our cross, not just carry it.*
- *Review: How we got here*
 - *Awareness of sins bring contrition – a heart that is broken to pieces lying on the ground – there arises a Godly Sorrow that causes us to turn to God.*
 - *God’s grace abundantly flows, and we respond to that grace.*
 - *This leads to conversion. (Repentance happens in a moment, but conversion is ongoing).*
 - *We grow more in love with God, see Him more for who He is. We are being transformed; we are being converted. Jesus reveals us to ourselves.*
 - *A converted heart informed by Church teaching see sin as detestable.*
 - *Sin darkens the mind, distorts the will, and suffocates the heart.*
 - *Sin tries to make us like Satan.*
- *This Reflection: Rejoice*
 - *Jesus triumphs over sin and death.*
 - *His salvation is overflowing with superabundant grace.*
 - *Our response is to rejoice – to express our joy.*
 - *Joy is a fruit of the Spirit*
 - *Rightly expressing our joy, we rejoice with those who rejoice, and we weep with those who weep.*
 - *Authentic joy is from God alone.*
 - *Your joy is not just for you!*