



Lent.

We take time.

Life takes time.

Life takes time, and time is limited.

And so we rush.

Rush to the next, whatever that next may be.

Perpetual motion of doing things, taking what we need and moving on to the next.

We forget to rest.

We forget we need time.

We forget there are things in life that need time.

Time that cannot be rushed.

In Lent we are reminded of that time. A 40 day period leading up to Resurrection Sunday where we may make an attempt at abstaining from something. Maybe food, tv, social media. There is no short cut through these forty days. 40 days is 40 days.

Lent is a time of preparation.

Like Israel's 40 years or Jesus's 40 days, we take time to prepare ourselves in the hope that we might not miss what is coming. Hope that what is coming isn't reduced to a tradition. Reduced to routine repetition, motions that have long since lost their meaning.

In this time as we prepare ourselves, may we take our time.

As we reflect on our humanity, may we acknowledge our limitedness.

As we fast, may we be hungry.

In this season of preparation, may we remember why.

In this season of preparation, may we also hope.

Hope, that as we remember and reflect on our limitedness and frailty, that what is coming is something new.



continue the conversation questions:

How does life seem to be going right now? Really slow and maybe a little frustrating or perhaps almost too quickly and maybe overwhelming?

Is it hard to see or hear God where you find yourself in life?

Is there an area of your life where you hope to see God show up?



a place to start:

“Don’t be afraid, I’ve redeemed you. I’ve called your name. You’re mine. When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you. When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down. When you’re between a rock and a hard place, it won’t be a dead end—Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you... *That’s* how much you mean to me! *That’s* how much I love you! I’d sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you. So don’t be afraid: I’m with you.

This is what God says, the God who builds a road right through the ocean, who carves a path through pounding waves...“Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is! I’m making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.”

[from isaiah 43 (MSG)]

The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his Temple. My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.” Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don’t leave me now; don’t abandon me, O God of my salvation! Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close. Teach me how to live, O Lord. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

[from psalm 27 (NLT)]

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you’re on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute! Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

[from phillipians 4 (MSG)]

