

Good morning, beloved.

Sorrow over our sin. Our struggles with temptation and dying to self. The Lenten season is meant to be a time of reflection on themes such as these, and as its primary purpose –a time of repentance as we faithful people of Jesus Christ, prepare for Holy Week and the Easter Season. A time of obedience, possibly fasting, to create a deeper understanding of our need for a Savior. To draw closer to the Lord. Often overlooked, however, is the temptation for us to turn our penitence into a source of inner pride. Whether we express it outwardly or not, pride is always lurking. It's one of the enemy's greatest tricks to get to lose our focus on Jesus!



As we listen to the Gospel reading this morning, let's keep all this in mind. How does Jesus' description of His pending torture and murder look when we consider our heart condition? And let's put ourselves in the place of the disciples as Jesus patiently listens to their requests and lovingly teaches them truths about what they are saying. Can we truly contemplate the cup that He drinks from; the Cross that He bears! It's probably going to get a little uncomfortable in here. But that's ok. Jesus knows our heart condition even before we do, in fact –and we know this well- it is the reason He came for us.

Brothers and Sisters, you have nothing to prove, to God or anyone else. It will never work. Instead, just be. Live free in Jesus. Amen.

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

*Mark 10:45 (ESV)*

*Mike Luna*