

Lenten Devotional  
Pastor Peter Michael Aguilar  
March 3, 2021

On January 21, 2020 the first known case of Covid-19 was diagnosed. February 22, 2020 it was announced as a global pandemic. On March 19, 2020 Governor Abbot announced a statewide shutdown. Happy Anniversary?

There are two words that are spiritual gifts that aren't specified in scripture: adapt and innovate. I did a word search in several versions and nothing came up. The faithful adapted and were innovative in discerning God's Will together.

These last 12 months have been a season of adaptation and innovation. We had to. All of the faith communities had to figure out different ways of worshipping, learning, communicating the gospel, helping, staying in touch, and staying healthy. We had to learn to adapt to what the culture and practices of staying safe in Mason, Texas USA from those who live in large cities like Chicago, Houston, Dallas, and Austin.

Though the words adapt and innovate aren't in scripture we sure see plenty of examples. Moses and the Israelites had to adapt and be innovative when crossing the wilderness. The prophets had to adapt and be innovative in helping the Israelites stay faithful in the midst of their oppression and slavery.

Mary had to adapt and be innovative when Mary discovered that she was with child. As did Joseph. When the Three Wise Men sought Jesus they followed the Star in the East but ended up at Herod's Palace. Not the place for the birth of the Baby Jesus. The disciples had to adapt and innovate their lives when they received the call to follow Jesus. Then there is the apostle Paul.

The life lessons of this last year have been obedience, patience and humility, common themes my whole life long. For there are times that I'm not very patient, and as much as I'd like to think that I'm right most of the time, I'm not – and neither are you. But we lay aside our pride for the sake of community. Remaining faithful and obedient to the Word.

There is one scripture passage that keeps showing up that speaks to the spiritual gifts of adapt and innovation. It's one of my favorites and is more relevant now than ever. Romans 5:3-5; "And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Let us have hope in our hearts, for it is the Will of God through Christ Jesus. Friends, stay strong and kind.

***Faithfully yours,  
Pastor Peter***