

Wednesday, March 12th (1st Of 5 Lenten Vesper Wednesdays)

Our Lenten Vespers Journey Starts Here:

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday states:

"We are called to struggle against every-thing that leads us away from the love of God & neighbor.

I invite you therefore to commit yourselves to this struggle."

Matthew 20:18-19 (New King James Version)

¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death,¹⁹ and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

Psalms 90:12 (New King James Version)

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Luke 9:23 (New King James Version)

Then He (Jesus) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Tonight's Reading: **Luke 9:51 -56** (New King James Version)

⁵¹ Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, *just as Elijah did?"

⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

⁵⁶ For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

And they went to another village.

* (some manuscripts do not contain)

James 1:19 "Take Note of This": _____

Going Deeper with Scriptures to Ponder & Meditate on . . .

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)

Be still, and know... GOD = For Who He Is

Exodus 20:3 (NKJV)

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

Mark 12:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as your-self.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (*Deuteronomy 6:5).

SIN = For What It Is

Romans 6:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

. . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

SELF = For Who I Am

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Luke 23:34 (NKJV)

¹Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Romans 7:14-25 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control ...