

Musings from Pastor's Office

The Forty Days of Lent are not a just a few days to take a spring break. World affairs consistently come to us to grasp our attention. I am surprised at finding myself being absorbed in earthly matters where prayerful participation in the suffering of the Lord is forgotten, ignored, or less attended to. A minister cannot be a Lenten person to a partial degree, not to speak of the laity!

Conflicts with kids, working, a communication flood, entertaining media, sports activities, tasty foods, and tons of bills are making us distracted. We, who are living in this world full of busy-ness, are far from exemplifying the word *stillness*. We are used to multitasking.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished." - Matthew 4:1,2-

Regardless of the historic practices performed by the Desert Church Fathers in their 3-5 centuries (as they spent their whole lives in the wilderness while praying to God and meditating on the scriptures), it is our reality that those practices sound crazy. Now there is no interest in the desert, but there is interest in the resort!

If so, are we going to give up Lent? Our deeper human longings say, "No" because our souls are not satisfied with worldly joys. We are looking for something deeper and Godly.

There is a way to keep Lent in the 21st century. Make a room of wilderness in your time, space, and heart. There, we disconnect all kinds of worldly communication

Blessings in Christ,
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