

INTRO

- Have you ever participated in the practice of giving something up for Lent?

In over 2000 years, no death has quite captured our attention like the crucifixion of Jesus. But what does it all mean? Our Lenten series this year is titled Cruciform, which means cross-shaped. And we'll be reflecting on the Crucified Christ.

READ

Isaiah 53:1-6,12

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Sin: the **lists**

Throughout the Bible, from the Ten Commandments recorded in Exodus to the laws laid out in Leviticus to the writings of Paul in places like Galatians 5 and Colossians 3, one could begin to think of "sin" as merely a long list of "do's and don't's".

Qu: What might be the error in thinking of sin merely as behaviours?

2. Sin: **idolatry**

The Ten Commandments begin:
I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol...

Tim Keller (Counterfeit Gods) writes:
"When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an 'idol,' something you are actually worshipping."

and

"An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, 'If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure.'"

Qu: Name some common 21st century idols that you can relate to.

3. Sin: that which we **neglect** to do

For centuries traditional churches have prayed the following Prayer of Confession:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. — Amen.

Qu: We typically think in terms of sinning against God in thought, word, and deed. Do you ever consider that you sin against God in what you have left undone — neglected to do? (If you have time read Matthew 25:34-46. Reflect and discuss.)

As we have taken this time to discuss sin, consider now our reading from Isaiah 53:

- he was pierced for our **transgressions**
- he was crushed for our **iniquities**
- the Lord has laid on him the **iniquity** of us all
- he bore the **sin** of many
- he makes intercession for the **transgressors**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God — Romans 3:23

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (cross), that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. — 1 Peter 2:24

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. — 2 Corinthians 5:21

PRAY

Take this time of prayer to respond with worship, thanksgiving to Jesus' crucifixion - bearing your sin on the cross.