

Better and Worse than I Knew

Psalm 36

1-4:

5-9:

10-12:



<https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/lent/>

Remove things from life (once, multiple, whole time)

Add things to life (once, multiple, whole time): 5 minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes, an hour, longer; “Spiritual” and other activities
Together

Do you *love* Easter?

In comparing the ‘much better’ Pharisee, and the ‘much worse’ sinful woman, Jesus said: “Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Luke 7:47

The Big Idea

Truly living requires

knowing our deep sinfulness

AND

knowing God’s great love in Christ

Having neither or both leaves us unstable or worse

John Newton

At the end of his life, he said:

“Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly:

I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

Action Items

Grow a deep awareness that I am sinful

Giving in to temptation, plus

The disordered desires deep within me that make these things tempting to me

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

Be astounded by God’s love

Lent

March 5 (Wednesday) for 40+ days until Easter

Advent prepares us to celebrate Christmas

Lent prepares us to celebrate Good Friday and Easter

Intentionally spend time in the light of God’s presence

- know my sin that necessitated Good Friday
- know the glorious love of God that brought Easter

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What does it mean to have a deep awareness of my own sin?
2. What does it mean to be astounded by God’s great love?
3. What does it look like for you to be in “the light of God’s presence”? How does His presence make us more aware of our sin? How should His presence make us more away of His love?
4. To celebrate Lent, what might you remove? What might you add? Why?

Conversation starters this week

Do you know what Lent is? Do you celebrate it?

What does it mean to you?

