

# WORSHIP AT HOME

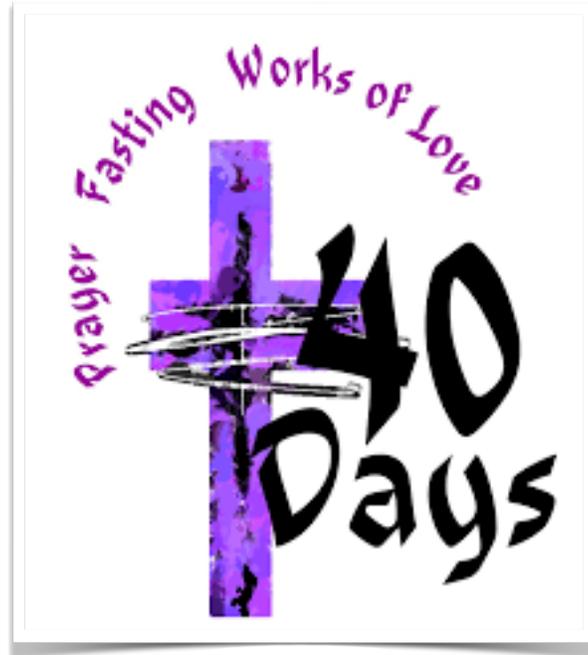
Live in the World | Rest Stops | Kingdom Life

## Rest Stops

**Repentance:** “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.”

**Revelation:** “Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, I have not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

**Reconcile:** “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come offer your gift.”



## Prelude to Repentance

Prepare for your Lenten Journey remembering Sabbath as God’s gift of Rest. Each Sabbath we break our fast. We fast, give up, meat, sweets, technology... to experience how things control our lives.

Play instrumental music in the background. Let the music get you out of your heady thoughts, reasons, and judgements. Let your heart, feelings and emotions, announce your needs. Do you need peace, security, and health?





## Vestibulum bibendum pede quis mi semper

**Righteousness:** “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in Heaven

**Reciprocity:** “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

**Redeemed:** “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

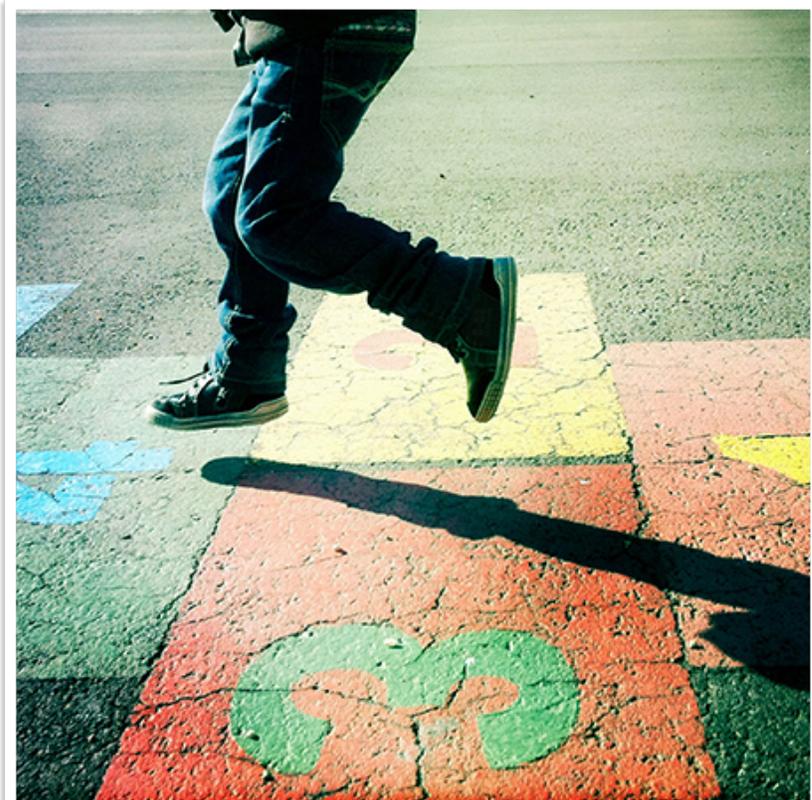
Today you break fast. You may return to what you chose to deny yourself. This is how we learn to live in the world, but not of it. Notice if returning to what you denied yourself provides peace, security, and health? Fasting, like all spiritual disciplines, teaches the way to Repentance. Repentance means we turn from the world to receive Rest for the Journey of Life.

## Lighting the Candles of Revelation

Jesus says you are the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth, not meat, sweets, or technology... How does Light invite you to peace and security? Consider the healing properties of salt. It cures, preserves, and adds flavor.

## Welcome that Reconciles

This week our Phone-Devotions called us to name our leaders, teachers, and heroes. Give thanks for each person. In some small or significant way they bless you. What is the cost of denying all



of these people to follow Jesus? You still turn to these people to receive their contribution to the World. You turn to Jesus to hear his Word and put it into practice. When Jesus' Way of Life conflicts with our Leaders, Teachers, and Heroes we have much to reconcile as we bear our cross.

## Special Music

## Prayers of Righteousness

We know how to communicate with our leaders, teachers, and heroes. We listen to them to hear and know the way to live in the world. In the same way we turn to God to listen to hear and know the way to live in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Disciples who follow Jesus trust that He is the King of the Kingdom. His words are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Along with Jesus' words we hear the crowd, the Teachers of the Law, Religious and Political Leaders, and Heroes like Abraham, Moses, and King David... To love these people is to deny their power and control. This is much harder than denying meat, sweets, or technology.

Prayer is the practice of sorting out the many voices who compete for control of our lives. Denying our teachers, leaders, and heroes comes with a cost. Jesus describes it as an experience of losing our lives. Losing control and denying people we trust to control of lives feels like death! Jesus promises that this death holds Life, here and now. Jesus calls us to live in the World as Light and Salt that brings heaven to earth.

Eternity includes today!

## Reading the Word: Matthew 16:24-25 and 4:17

**Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

**Matthew 4:17** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

## Special Music

## The Message of Reciprocity

I spent many years working for destination resorts and private country clubs. Even the most exclusive country clubs practice reciprocity. Reciprocity works like this; “Let us come play your golf course and dine in your clubhouse and we will welcome you to do the same in ours.” The amazing thing about reciprocity is that it appears to be a free gift. No money is exchanged. Two or more private, exclusive worlds share as if they were One. Jesus’ message of mercy, grace, and love reveals the reciprocity God offers to our broken, sinful, world of suffering. Why wait till you die to experience heaven? Jesus invites us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Hear the good News, Jesus enters our World to reveal God’s Kingdom on earth. Now that is Revelation! Faced with our world of suffering and death He shows us ways to live on earth as it is in heaven. This is God’s Will! His preaching and miracles demonstrate God’s will to be a journey through Repentance, Revelation, Reconciliation, Righteousness, Reciprocity, and Redemption. These are Kingdom of Heaven Rest Stops for the human heart, soul, and mind.

In the Country Club and Jesus’ Kingdom of Heaven reciprocity takes place without the exchange of money, but make no mistake, reciprocity is costly. Members constantly complain. “Who are those people playing our golf course. They are not members of our Club. Who admitted them access to our private, exclusive world?” “I don’t care if they are dressed properly. They have no right to dine in our clubhouse. I demand they be escorted off our property.” “Do you know how much I spend each year to so I don’t have to put up with those people?” Hear the Good News, we have a lot to change if we want to follow Jesus. Jesus shows us that the change takes place in our heart, soul, and mind, not our neighbor.

Jesus speaks and acts with reciprocity. His language and actions are met with resistance by Leaders, Teachers, and people who follow the Heroes of Israel, like Abraham, Moses, the Prophets, and King David. His way of Justice is to love Mercy. , reciprocity, His love of Mercy reveals Grace where people are of more value than rules, laws, and moral codes. Grace is free but it never does away with the rules, laws, and moral codes. Mercy and Grace fulfill the Law and prophetic moral codes. His Love blesses those who seek to cause harm.

Lent is a season of intentionally inspecting our heart, soul, and mind through Jesus’ Kingdom of Heaven message. “If you want to come after me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.”

- Who are your teachers, leaders, and heroes. They are the people who show us the way to survive the world. They are not Jesus.
- Denying yourself simply means you first give thanks for your teachers, leaders, and heroes. They have much to say about the world, religion, and politics. In the same way Jesus wants your full attention. He wants to personally teach you his Kingdom of Heaven Ways. You will undoubtedly say, “But he is not physically present.” The same Spirit that connected Jesus to God in Heaven while we lived on earth is with us, now. God’s Spirit teaches and leads us the same way the Spirit led him.

- Take up your cross. From the cross Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom message of Mercy. The world sees the cross as Justice shaped by restitution and retribution. The World seeks justice by making us pay with money and time. Speaking from the cross while suffering all of humanity's sin Jesus says, "Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing." We deny ourselves because the Holy Spirit leads us to understand that we do not know what we are doing. If we knew what we were doing would we be arguing about right and wrong, fault and cause, while harming one another in the name of justice based on harm for harm?
- To follow Him means we live in this broken world but not with its ways. Repentance, Revelation, Reconciliation, Righteousness, Reciprocity, and Redemption are the ways of the King.
- In the margin of the pages above I offer Jesus' words that I believe describe Rest-Stops for the Journey of Life

One in Christ,

Robert

## Tithes and Offerings of the Redeemed

Love redeemed us and our neighbors. Jesus reconciles the World with God's mercy. God's righteousness is revealed in Grace. The Redeemed leave their tithes and offerings at the Altar to first be reconciled with their neighbor who resents not having control over our lives.

## Postlude