

LEA Weekly Devotion

Always Something series 2023–2024

*There is one God and Father of everything.
He rules everything. He is everywhere and in everything (Eph. 4:6 ICB).*

Week of February 25, 2024

Lent

Joseph went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus' body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give it to Joseph. Then Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He put Jesus' body in a new tomb that he had cut in a wall of rock. He rolled a very large stone to block the entrance of the tomb (Matt. 27:58–60).

Lent packs a variety of meanings. For some people, it's the 40 days prior to Easter. Others find it synonymous with *spring*, while some equate it with *light*. Of course, still others join the knowledgeable literate and call it the *past participle of lend*. But I propose an alternative:

God went on a generous lending spree! It started with Creation. He lent His magnificent garden to Adam and Eve. Apparently they didn't want a place with so many living restrictions—even though there was only one. God dismissed them from the property for their own good.

Later, in a dazzling display of mercy and grace, He lent His name to a select tribe and called them "My people." He promised to be their God—as long as they wanted Him.

Many centuries passed, each one in some way revealing always something of how God lent His truth, power, and care to His people. He lent the ability to speak His word through prophets and disciples, so future generations would know His powerful and gracious History. And He lent people time—time filled with opportunities to get to know Him and to share His Good News of salvation.

Time moved on, and people—His own and those who didn't know Him—hadn't improved much on their faithfulness. Something *lent* usually has a user's charge and must be returned in good condition. Time lent for repentance also provides time for complacency or apostasy. All were doomed unless they could somehow gain the righteousness God requires to be saved.

They couldn't. So Jesus lent them His. Then His friends buried Him in a lent tomb.

His righteousness saves all those who believe in Him. What He lent became permanent. No scratches. No dents. No charge.

“It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray” (Is. 35:8b ESV).

Love Lent. Savor the season.

Question for consideration and prayer: *What gifts has Jesus lent to you for the good of others?*

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A joyful heart is good medicine, But a crushed spirit dries up the bones—Prov. 17:22 ESV.

