

Lent Day 12: Goodbye Yesterday

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

As we begin this new week of Lent, we begin by asking these questions: To whom do you belong today? Do you belong to the world, to yourself, or to someone else other than God? We cannot belong to both God and the world. Though we live in the world, we are called out of it and into a relationship with Christ.

The gospel is that I can finally say goodbye to yesterday. Each day I live in the Lord changes and transforms me. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor. 5:17). What is new, you ask? Our identity once belonged to the world, claimed by sin and death. But remember, today, that is no longer the case.

Our lives cannot help but be changed when we return to what Christ has done for us and why he did it. He has died for my sins, and the debt of my sins has been paid once and for all. The lie we often believe is that we are doomed by our sin—that we have no hope in life or in death, and that we are only the sum of our own lack of righteousness.

But know this: there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God (Rom. 8:38), and you are His (Rom. 14:8). He is your God—the Lord is your God, your Father, and your Saviour.

So begin this week in that truth. Begin again, saying goodbye to yesterday in all of our fears, failures, and worries for tomorrow. We can face today because of what Christ has already done for you and I.

“Jesus wants us to belong to God as he belongs to God; he wants us to be children of God as he is a child of God; he wants us to let go of the old life, which is so full of fears and doubts, and to receive the new life, the life of God himself.”

– Henry Nouwen