

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 10

Disciplined Giving: Nothing Lacking for any Child

“Know this: God, your God, is God indeed, a God you can depend upon. He keeps his covenant of loyal love with those who love him and observe his commandments for a thousand generations.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 MSG

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

In this scripture, Moses is referring to the 40 years that God’s people wandered in the wilderness. During that 40 years, God gave them His commandments and made clear His expectations. Unfortunately, the people did not always obey and thus they paid a penalty.

Merriam Webster defines discipline as “Control gained by enforcing obedience or order. Training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character. A rule or system of rules governing conduct or activity.” Many times, our first impression of discipline is a negative such as punishment; however, as we see from the definition, it is more of a set of guidelines and rules to maintain order and obedience. It is only when we disregard the rules that we experience a negative response.

During this Lenten season, we reflect on not only the days leading up to Jesus’s death and resurrection, but also His perfect example of following God’s commandments during his short time on earth. Jesus lived a perfect life, free of sin and refusing to be tempted by Satan. Also, during His life on earth, Jesus mentored and taught His Disciples. Disciple comes from the

word *discipulus* which is the Latin word for pupil. Through His words and actions, Jesus lived the life that God our creator expects and desires.

Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus states: “‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

As believers, we are Disciples of Christ. As Disciples, we are expected to adhere to the discipline established by Almighty God which was handed down to Moses thousands of years ago.

In Exodus 20: 4-6 God gave these words to Moses: “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

By giving generously, we avoid creating idols of wealth, material possessions, people or things of this earth. We are expected to give our praise and possessions to Almighty God. Let us challenge each other to do this, especially in this Lenten Season.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Rick Shelnutt, St. Simons Island, Georgia is an active member and Vice-Chair of the Board of Morningstar Children and Family Services where he contributes to the transformative teaching and healing that is meant to affirm the Morningstar Children through real relationships. Rick serves as the

Property Chair of the Board at Morningstar and has provided invaluable project management services for the most recent campus improvements, helping create “home” on the campus for the Children of Morningstar. Rick is also a member of the Frederica Baptist Church and sings in the choir there.

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Primary Mailing Address
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Brunswick, GA 31521

Brunswick Counseling Center
220 Santo Domingo Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

Perry Counseling Center
402 Courtney Hodges Blvd, Ste 201
Perry, GA 31069

Morningstar Residential Campus
1 Youth Estate Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

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