

## **Weekly Lenten Devotional 6 - Am I allowing God to “create in me a clean heart”?**

Hello Church Family,

I pray the peace of our Savior Jesus Christ meets you this day just as you are. We have made it to our final week of Lent. This will be one of the last Lenten Devotionals you will receive from me as we close out this season of repentance, healing, discipleship, and restoration. We've spent the last six weeks cultivating spiritual practices of prayer, studying our scriptures, and reflecting on God Spirit's movement through our lives this Lent. I pray you have been able to grow in your faith and relationship with Jesus noticing the ways God is moving in your life.

This week I will write an additional Lenten Devotional for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. I pray these devotionals will enhance your spiritual walk and encourage you to take time alone with God this Holy Week. I am grateful, just as I was the first week we began Lent, for the beautiful ways you have shown up as a community for one another as we center and embrace Jesus in new ways together. Keep up the good ministry church!

Yesterday in worship, we read Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 and Luke 19:28-40. These scriptures tell the stories of processions and parades into Jerusalem. Psalm 118 being a Hallel Psalm which would have been sung as pilgrims entered the Temple. The Luke 19 scripture describes Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and ultimately the Temple as many generals or important Greco-Roman leaders would have entered the city at that time.

I invited all of us to take a posture of the crowds and people which surrounded Jesus as he made this triumphal entrance into Jerusalem who did not know exactly who Jesus was. I asked each of us from this place to ask ourselves a question I believe many were asking that day for themselves: Who is Jesus? Is Jesus a Savior, a King, a Teacher, a Prophet? Who is Jesus?

Today, I would like to ask you to continue reflecting on this question, but nuance it a little. Who is Jesus to YOU? And, will you welcome Him this week into your life? Will you welcome the Steadfast Love of one who seeks to save not only you, but the lost, the downtrodden, the poor, the outcast, the sinner, the disabled, and the blind?

And, if you will welcome this Redeemer Jesus, then how can He create a clean heart in you? As one of our Lenten questions we began with stated: Are you allowing God to “create in [you] a clean heart” as Psalm 51:10 encouraged us to do on Ash Wednesday?

I pray you are willing to welcome this Redeemer Jesus into your life this Holy Week. I know if you will welcome Him, as you do, you will find a “new and right spirit within [you]” (Psalm 51:10). A spirit which will embrace God allowing the Holy Spirit to “restore [you] to the joy of your salvation” (Psalm 51:12). May it be so, as we journey with Jesus step-by-step to the fellowship table on Thursday, the cross on Good Friday, and the silence on Holy Saturday, until we meet again at the Resurrection tomb Easter morning. Amen!

Still growing in grace – Rev. Kristen Perkins Glover