

3rd Sunday of Lent

The priest that married Ginni & I later he felt called to missions & served in Tanzania
When he first arrived the Masai came to visit & pay their respects over tea
He had a crucifix on the wall & they asked about it
So he explained about Jesus and His crucifixion – they laughed at him
“If He was God, how did He allow these people to kill Him?
Why didn’t He just kill them instead?
It seems funny to us that your God would suffer and die like this.”
Logical – from a purely human perspective, that’s logical.

Why do we so easily accept Christ crucified – is it just because we were born Christian?
Have you ever really sat down and thought about it, struggled with it?

In today’s 2nd reading

“Jews demand a sign, and Greeks look for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles”

We preach Christ crucified – this is our faith, its all rooted in Christ crucified.
From Adam to Abraham to Moses to ANDROS – our faith is in Christ crucified, then risen

Christians have something beyond worldly wisdom of Masai – FAITH.

When Jesus cleansed the Temple the 1st thing the Jews said was ‘show us a sign’
(A sign eliminates the need for faith)

Jesus says there’s only one sign I’ll give you – destroy this temple and in 3 days –
This wasn’t good enough – because it requires FAITH
They wanted something else, concrete evidence – proof
Christianity only offers two absolutely essential signs:

CROSS & RESURRECTION

Without the cross – debt for sin is not paid
Without the resurrection – Jesus is just another guy
A crucified Savior that rises from the dead is not logical – it can’t be proven with logic & science
They are signs we have to struggle with in FAITH

This is the struggle of Lent – that we might have a new Wisdom
The faith-filled wisdom of Good Friday, and Holy Saturday is rewarded on Easter.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes a whip *and He gets their attention*

What does He need to do to get our attention?

We are meant to be the temple of the HS – *Jesus cleans temples!*

What corruption is within us? What have we allowed to find its way into our temple?

Can you allow the Lord to enter your temple and kick over a few things?

Lent is a time for letting God get our attention.
Sometimes he’ll use thunder and lightning
Sometimes he’ll use a whip
Sometimes he’ll be a still small voice of conscience calling us home – to a FAITH-filled life.