



Bo's Blog

March is upon us. Which means Spring is just a few weeks away, officially, and hopefully even closer than that. We look forward to warmer days, daffodils, tulips, and irises in bloom, trees in blossom, the lawn greening up, and more time spent comfortably outside. Daylight Savings time kicks in this month, so we have more daylight hours in our evening. We have St. Patrick's Day and the youth Crab Feed to tantalize our taste buds. And baseball games (albeit exhibition games) are on the radio (or on podcasts, for those not as nostalgic as I am). Signs, sounds, smells, and tastes of new life after the winter's slumber.

Lent also begins this month. It's late this year, because Easter is late in April. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9th (with Mardi Gras ending on the 8th), and we will have a service here at the church that evening. Lent, as I've mentioned before, is our time to reflect on our lives, and also, through the stories of Jesus' temptations and trials, on the trials and temptations we face in life. We confront, and are confronted by, the limitations of life—our limitations. Some will give up something for Lent—usually something that's not good for them, like smoking, or a diet rich in saturated fats. Others may take on something for Lent—like getting more exercise, or spending more time each day in prayer. Many find their limitations in being able to do, or not do, these things for the entire 6 weeks. And then, at the end of Lent, we come face-to-face with our ultimate limitation—death.

But death is no longer the end of the story, because Jesus' story continues on after his death and into new life through his resurrection. For us, then, the ultimate limitation has been removed, and that is the Easter celebration of next month. In this month, then, as we reflect on our human-ness, we also keep in the back of our mind this wonderful sign of new life through God's grace that transforms the slumber of our wintered lives.

Lent, then, is a time when we take a look at who we are, limitations and all, and who God calls us to be, limitations and all. It is a time to look for those signs, smells, sounds, and tastes of new life appearing in our lives. It is a time to hold on to hope.

Sounds like the start of a baseball season.

Shalom,
Bo