

Lent Three- Wednesday, March 7 – Challenges/Choices

We've been focusing on choices and challenges this week. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus contextualizes his radical upending theology with specific, concrete challenges. On Thursday, we were reminded to put ourselves in others' shoes, recalling what we ourselves might know about someone's challenging position, and to act with great grace and mercy. On Friday, we were encouraged to examine our "logs," lest we cast judgement upon others but not upon ourselves. On Saturday, the bizarre passage about pearls to pigs called to mind the need to correct others with humility and walk away when it can't be received. On Sunday, our obsession with choice was challenged, and the path of God made narrow and clear. On Monday, this path was fleshed out and we were reminded how difficult it can be to choose faithfulness in the midst of a challenge. And finally, our week wrapped up with a warning about our teachers; we are to heed and follow the advice of those who model godly character.

I wonder, which of these days has seemed most foreign or most difficult for you? Is it the challenge to put others first in your mind, so to do unto them what you would want done unto you? Or might it be the warning to hold back in sharing with those not willing to listen? Perhaps the log and speck resonates with you, as hard as it can be to admit it. I encourage you to tune into one of these particular reflections and see if you can put the principles of its related Sermon on the Mount text to work in your life.