

20 Days To Live

Objective:

To live these last days of lent as if it were our last days to live on earth. What would you do differently if you knew you had only 20 days to live?

Theme:

(Psalm 90:12) “¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

- “Be All There”
- Living The Dash Date – Death (Focus on what you can control)
- Colossians 3:23
- Live your life so that you have no regrets at the end
- Whoever you need to apologize to, do it now
- Whomever you need to accept their apology, what are you waiting for?
- Ask yourself each morning: “Would I do this, if I only had 20 days to live?”
- How to Love Completely
 - o Give up my grudges (Ephesians 4: 31-32)
- What matters most are not accomplishments, but rather relationships.
- God said: “Heaven and earth shall pass but not one of my words”. Therefore, the only two things that will exist are:
 - o The word of God
 - o People
- Jesus washes the disciples’ feet because:
 - o He loved the dispels
 - o He knew that his end is near and he wanted to show them as much love as possible
- How to Love Completely
 - o **Give up my grudges (Ephesians 4:31-32)**
 - o Bitterness only hurts you, not the person you’re bitter at
 - o “So and so makes me _____” proves that you’re weak because you’re not in control of yourself and you allow someone else to make you feel sad, angry, annoyed or hateful.
 - o (Job 5:2) feel free to insert your name where it says “fool”
 - o Resentment will hurt you the most, and then the people you love the most and care about

- **Give up grief (Not mourning over someone's death, but moaning over your own sorrows)**
- This is another self imposed punishment you administer to yourself
- It's not like you're putting yourself in timeout or putting yourself in the penalty box for life
- Everyone has experienced pain, every single person here, but some of us choose to move on and some choose to dwell on it.
- King David grieved and fasted for seven days but then he chose to move on when the child died. He accepted what can't be changed.
- Focus on what's left, not what's lost
- **Give up guilt (Don't punch yourself for a mistake you made), guilt is 100% from the devil**
- God's specialty is forgiveness, showing grace, compassion, and love
- If God is in the pictures, everything is possible, look at the Samaritan woman, look at the prodigal son, and look at the right hand thief. Compare that to Judas (Matthew 27)
- You don't need to beat yourself up and feel that you're the worst person in the world.
- All you need is repentance and confession
- Personal confession, church confession and
- Make sure to get rid of all ill feelings, forgive and give people a chance, and stop feeling guilty so you can love completely.
- "... But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 13-14)
- What St. Paul is saying is:
 - I cannot love in the present, if I am still reacting to the past

This sermon was given by Fr. Anthony Messieh and you can hear it at: www.orthodoxsermons.org