

the  Venues
Go Deep

“I’m Learning About Lent”
February 7, 2016

What is your religious heritage regarding lent?

1. Lent about “You too?”

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Placing the mark of the cross on your forehead with ashes symbolizes the acknowledgement that we don’t have it all together - that we have sin.

What’s the significance of everyone having the “tattoo”?

*What do you think of this quote from the book Edge of Adventure? Speaking of a bar, the authors write:
“...but it is an accepting and inclusive fellowship. It's unshockable. You can tell people secrets and they usually don't tell others or even want to. The bar flourishes, not because most people are alcoholics, but because God has put in the human heart the desire to know and be known, to love and be loved...With all my heart I believe Christ wants his church to be.... a fellowship where people can come in and say, ‘I’m sunk!’ ‘I’m beat!’ ‘I’ve had it!’”*

Agree? Disagree? Why?

Why is it so hard to be honest in church?

Why is it easier to be honest in an AA meeting?

Read Psalm 31:1, 10-13

List the experiences of David that lead him to want a shelter.

Which experiences of David connect with you?

2. Lent is about taking up more than giving up.

Why do people give up something for the 40 days of Lent?

What are you thinking about giving up for Lent?

We’re talking about not just giving up something, but taking up something. To erase and replace.

What attitudes or behaviors would you like to erase. With what would you replace them?

Do you know the hymn “Just As I Am?”

Written by Charlotte Elliot, when she was feeling spiritually down. Her biographer writes, “...she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life, wondered whether it were anything better after all than an illusion of emotions...”

When was a time you felt like Ms Elliot?

My (Phillip) favorite verse of “Just As I Am” is:

*“Just as I am, tho tossed about.
With many a conflict, many a doubt.
Fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come. I come.”*

It is this verse that defines my (Phillip) philosophy of church - to have a church where those who are “tossed about...inner conflicts, outer fears...” feel safe.

What are some of your spiritual, Biblical, ethical, philosophical doubts?

Have you ever felt afraid to express them?

Have you ever felt judged by others when you expressed a certain view, asked a particular question, gave voice to a doubt?

What do you think of Ms Elliot’s view of a God who wants us to come “just as we are?”

What can you and your group to be a “shelter” for people?