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UPDATE

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Wondrous Encounters

DAY
BY DAY
THROUGH
LENT

BY RICHARD ROHR

ASH WEDNESDAY

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

It seems that we need beginnings, or everything eventually devolves and declines into unnecessary and sad endings. You were made for so much more! So today you must pray for *the desire to desire!*

THURSDAY

Dt 30:15–20; Lk 9:22–25

We must place our bet, set our trajectory, make a choice, surrender to the Great Love...just be ready for the trials and confusion into which this clear choice will lead you.

FRIDAY

Is 58:1–9a; Mt 9:14–15

Isaiah makes a very upfront demand for social justice, non-aggression, taking our feet off the necks of the oppressed, sharing our bread with the hungry, clothing the naked, letting go of our sense of entitlement. How often we miss the point!

SATURDAY

Is 58:9b–14; Lk 5:27–32

“God, where am I trapped and unable to see it?” That may be the best starter prayer for Lent.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

SUNDAY

Mt 4:1–11; Mk 1:12–15; Lk 4:1–13

In all three years of the lectionary cycle, the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is devoted to the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Examining temptations is a good way to begin Lent. Most people's daily ethical choices are not between total good and total evil, but between various shades of good, a partial good that is wrongly perceived as an absolute good (because of the self as the central reference point), or even evil that disguises itself as good. These are what get us into trouble.

MONDAY

Lv 19:1–2, 11–18; Mt 25:31–46

Jesus' "commandments" go far beyond mere boundary-keeping. They actually move beyond all boundaries to take care of those who did not make it. Those who do not fit in. These are the outsider, the criminal, the vulnerable, and the weak. It is quite a leap.



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