

Pancakes & Giving Up Something

February 22 Read: Luke 9:22-25 Alison Lammers

When I think back on Lent when I was growing up, all I really recall is pancakes and giving up something. It was to remind me of the suffering Jesus undertook on the cross for me. (Not that you can really relate not eating chocolate to death by crucifixion.) Either way, I was connecting and engaging in a long standing tradition of the Christian faith. I believe there is value to participating in the traditions associated with the church calendar as long as I am aware of *what* I am doing and *why*.

I don't know if I truly did know what I was doing and why. But I believe I have emerged from the process of 'creating' this reflection with an idea.

Lent is defined as the preparation of the believer. This is usually accomplished through prayer, penitence, self denial and almsgiving. These are done to prepare me for Easter, a time of both grieving and celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

I will never fully understand the emotion linked with the suffering and death of our Saviour. But I will, with my entire heart, try and understand the significance of these events and I promise to apply what I learn to my life through prayer, self denial and almsgiving... making Lent year long; a continued preparation for more than just an Easter season, but for an eternity with God.

Prayer: God, help me to prepare for this upcoming Easter as I also prepare for eternity with you. Help me to make Lent about You and your actions. Continue to give me the desire to understand all that you have done through your death and resurrection every day throughout the year.
AMEN
