

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent • C  
February 27-28, 2010

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Week 2: How is your Lenten journey going? Lent is our annual retreat, to take some time, to look around and see where we are.

We are creatures of habit and it is easy to become stuck in a rut. I once heard someone say, “the only difference between a rut and the grave, is the depth.”

Lent invites us to look at our lives, our relationships and ask, “are we living as fully as God wants?”

How is your relationship with God? That question may even be difficult. What does it mean to have a relationship with God? What am I supposed to do to relate to God? What does that even mean?

Maybe I feel that we need to change before I can approach God. Maybe I feel that I am not worthy to approach God, so even praying feels foolish. So, what do I need to do before I can relate to God?

The amazing answer is that you don't have to do anything because God meets you where you are. Even though God is always inviting us to conversion and growth, and even though we are imperfect and sometimes sinful, **God loves us as we are now!** As Anthony De Mello said, “You don't have to change for God to love you.” We are loved, we are loved, we are loved.

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus meeting people. He enters into relationship with them as and where he finds them. He doesn't wait until they have changed their lives, he meets them where they are and as they are. That is how God meets us, too. God meets us where we are and how we are.

So, if you find meaning primarily through relationships, this is how God may want to meet you. Look for God through friendship. Maybe you find God in those around you, your husband or wife, your children, your friends.

Jesus often met people in the midst of their work: Peter mending the nets, Matthew at his tax collector's booth. So, maybe God wants to meet you at work.

Jesus just as often met people when they were at their absolute worst: an adulterous woman, a woman who had been sick for many years, a possessed man. In each of these situations, God said to these busy, stressed-out, worried, frightened people, "I am ready to meet you, if you are ready to meet me."

God will meet you anywhere. God will also meet you in ways that you can understand, in ways that are meaningful to you. Sometimes God will speak to you in a manner that is so personal, so tailored to the circumstances of your life that it will be nearly impossible to explain to others.

God can also meet you at any time, no matter how confused your life may seem. You don't have to have a perfectly organized daily life to experience God. Your spiritual house doesn't need to be tidy for God to enter.

God is ready. We just need to be open and invite God in. God won't break down the door and bust in; God simply waits for an invitation. So, you don't have to wait until your life settles down, or the kids move out of the house. You don't have to wait until you find the perfect job, or you recover from that long illness. You don't have to wait until you've overcome a sinful pattern or until you are more religious, or you can pray better. You don't have to wait for any of that....

God is ready now, are you?

*Adapted from God is Ready by James Martin, March 8, 2010*