



## Lenten Challenge

What am I being challenged to give up or stop doing in order to grow in my relationship with God?

What am I being challenged to start doing or practicing in order to grow in my relationship with God?

Who will I ask to hold me accountable for these 40 days?

## Prayer Concerns

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### THURSDAY 02.28.19 [Luke 5](#) (focused on 5:1-11)

So there you are, going about your ordinary everyday business, and one day someone comes up to you. He wants to borrow your boat. He talks about God becoming king, about everything being different, about a new day dawning in which the poor are going to be helped up out of the mud. And the next thing you know, it isn't just the fish that are caught ... it's you! He seems to know something that goes deeper than everything else. He seems to have a purpose, a plan. He wants helpers. Why me? Goodness knows, but actually (I know it sounds a bit stupid) there's something about him I've never seen before. Maybe this is for real. Maybe he is for real. Maybe he thinks I'm for real. That's a scary thought. In fact (it just strikes me), if he's really a prophet, and if he wants me to work with him, my life might have to change. Just a bit. Don't think I want that ... But what's that? He's laughing. 'Get up, Peter. You're going to be catching people from now on.' What? You mean me? You can't be serious, Lord. But he is. Very serious. But also very light-touch. Come on, Peter. This is the first day of the rest of your life.

• *Lord, help me to hear your call and be ready to respond. I'm not perfect but I'm ready to have you take charge.*

### FRIDAY 03.01.19 [Luke 6](#) (focused on 6:20-27)

Supposing you were in the crowd listening to Jesus telling you all kinds of things about God and his kingdom. So much to take in, so much to think through, so much to try to remember ... but wait, he's teaching us something, something we can learn quite easily. It goes with a swing and a flow. But what does it all mean? Well, we're working on that. It's a bit like the words they say his mother sang when she knew he was on the way: the rich getting brought down with a bump and the poor getting a leg up. God turning the world the right way up at last. But not everybody's going to like it. There are already mutterings and mumblings in the background.

• Read again slowly the words in verses 20-23.  
• *Lord, help me to learn your new song, and to find out what it means in our world today.*

### SATURDAY 03.02.19 [Luke 13:31-35](#)

Perhaps we're with Jesus and his party as those Pharisees (friendly ones, as occasionally they are in Luke) come to warn him that Herod, the local king who doesn't like rival 'kings' on his patch, is out to get him. You can feel the tension in the air. Some of us knew it might end in this way; all the talk about the rich and the powerful being thrown down and the poor and humble raised up was bound to lead to trouble, however much it's in the Bible! Now what shall we do? Now what will he do? He's saying, 'Herod can't touch me; prophets die in Jerusalem. Didn't you know that?' Surely he doesn't mean he's going to Jerusalem...in order to *die* there?

'Jerusalem, Jerusalem!' Think of the hen and the chicks. Think of the fire that will sweep through the farmyard. Yes, I'm coming to Jerusalem, and that's what I wanted to do for all of you, to take the fire on myself, the fire of Herod, the fire of Rome, the fire of all the wickedness in the world. But are you going to be ready for it? Or will you reject your one chance of safety?

• *Lord, we don't always understand what you're up to, or why you went to die in that way. But we pray for strength to follow wherever you go, to be sheltered under your wings from all the evil that may come.*