



questions for reflection

series: "Things We Need to Hear Jesus Say"

We know that often we only hear what we want to hear when someone is talking, but what about Jesus? Do we already have an idea of what he might be saying to us before we begin to listen? Do we truly listen and hear what Jesus says? This seven-week Lenten series will engage moments in Scripture where Jesus speaks words we need to hear.

part 1:

"Your sins are forgiven"

by Dave Terpstra on Tuesday February 24, 2009

What is your history and experience with the Lent season? How has it been impactful for you in the past?

The Lent season is about preparation for Easter and intention in your relationship with God. (For a more detailed explanation of Lent, go to www.tnl.org/lent)

- What things in life do we typically prepare for?
- What does the idea of preparing for Easter look like?
- What aspects of your life are you most intentional?
- How does that intentionality manifest itself in your thoughts, feelings, priorities, and actions?
- How can similar intentionality impact your relationship with God this season?

For centuries, Christ followers have held two main traditions in pursuing the intentionality of the Lenten season. One, they give up habits or activities as part of a "fast" in order to create more time for God, to foster discipline, and to focus on areas of their life where they want to better follow Christ. Two, they take up devotional practices and spiritual disciplines that will foster their relationship with God. For more thoughts and examples on giving up and taking up, see www.tnl.org/lent.

- What did you, or can you, give up for Lent?
- What did you, or can you, take up for Lent?

What do you need to hear Jesus say to you right now?

How are you intentionally listening for God?

Most people are better at talking to others than they are at listening to others.

- Why is this often the case?
- Do you see any parallels in how we talk to and listen to God?

In the story of the man healed in Mark 2, he probably wanted to hear Jesus say "I'll fix your legs", but he needed to hear "Your sins are forgiven."

- What do you most want in life right now?
- What might you most need in life right now?
- What do you most want in your relationship with God right now?
- What might you most need in your relationship with God right now?