

"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10: 25-37

Introduction: An Exciting New World –or-- Brave New World

- I. Ethical Dilemmas in Biotechnology Today
 - A. The debate about cloning
 - B. The debate about embryonic stem cells
 - C. The debate about therapeutic somatic cell nuclear transfer
- II. Science, Religion and Moral Decisions
 - A. Science's role in emerging technologies
 - B. Doing Christian Ethics
- III. The New Atheism
 - A. Richard Dawkins (Scientist & Atheist)
 - The God Delusion: (1) Religion offers no rational explanation of how things came to be; (2) Religion is the source of most evil in the world (like wars); and (3) it causes adherents to affirm a host of stupid ideas.
 - B. Francis Collins (Scientist & Christian)
 - "A devoted Christian, Collins defends evolution and embryonic stem cell research in his new book, The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief
- IV. Science, Christianity and the Future
 - Is America flunking science?
 - Why Christian Churches must produce more scientists
 - Why Christian Churches must produce more thinking Christians

Conclusion: A Christian Response: Science & Religion at the Cross-Roads

- "As a science person I am always questioning, and as a Christian, I am always seeking. The quests seem a lot alike to me." Doris Taylor
- *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. –Micah 6:8*

Be sure to attend our Ash Wednesday service on the 21st at 7:00 pm, when we receive the sign of the cross marked on our forehead in ashes...a reminder of our sinful humanness and mortality. If you've never attended, don't miss it this year...this service is truly powerful!

Our study guide this week takes us to the conclusion of our series on Science & Religion and into our Lenten theme of 'sacrifice'. We are studying this important topic through Jim's sermon series on "Victory: Winning The Battles of Life." You will receive a "40 Days of Prayer, Fasting, & Sacrifice" calendar to guide you and your family on a spiritual journey with Jesus this Lenten Season.

Monday -- In the bible, references to 'atheism' are rare, but we see that even then some people held no belief in God. Often the bible characterizes such a person as a 'fool.' "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (*Ps. 14:1*). Foolish behavior is also characterized by an inability to recognize the true character of God. Job chastised his wife for behaving as the foolish do when she denied the steadfast love of God (*Job 2:10*).

Tuesday – In the New Testament, there is a recognition that often people who are 'wise' and very bright, fail to include God in their thinking. Wisdom based only on human intellect and experiences without considering God is considered folly. In *Matthew 23:17*, folly is equated with blindness. The characteristics of folly include thoughtlessness, the pursuit of unbridled aspirations, and a life-style characterized by envy, greed, and pride.

Wednesday – Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. The English word *lent* (stems from an Anglo-Saxon word for "spring" and is related to the English word *lengthen*) refers to the penitential period preceding Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. Over the next few centuries, perhaps in remembrance of Jesus' fasting for forty days in the wilderness (*Matt. 4:1-2*), forty days became the accepted length of the Lenten season. Since, from the earliest years of Christianity, it had been considered inappropriate to fast on the day of the resurrection, Sundays were not counted in the forty days. Thus, the Wednesday 46 days before Easter came to be regarded as the beginning of Lent.

Thursday – Jesus' first major battle in life was – no surprise here—with temptation. Read *Matthew 4:1-11*. What issues of temptation do you battle in life? By joining in the journey of sacrifice throughout Lent, you'll get more in touch with the demons that tempt you and sense more closely the presence of Christ as you "hold your ground" against temptation.

Friday -- Read *Luke 3:21-23*. Try to picture this scene in your mind. This would have been Jesus' greatest spiritual experience to date. Have you had a time where you felt especially close to God? When? Notice that Jesus' spiritual mountaintop was followed by a time of intense testing by the devil. Have you ever found yourself tempted following a great spiritual experience? Read *Luke 4:8*