

LENTEN

devotionals

FIFTH MONDAY OF LENT MARCH 22, 2021

Today is the fifth week of Lent.
Take a moment to pause and
breathe in and out slowly.
Intentionally.
Rest in and welcome God's
grace-filled presence.

How we view ourselves has a
significant bearing on how we live
our lives. Make our decisions and
interact with others.

God has a lot to say about who
we are and who we can become.
But far too often we don't hear
it because we don't believe it.

Imagine looking in the mirror
right now.

†

What do you see?

Do you simply notice the hair
out of place or the blemish
not concealed?

Or that new grey hair that you
know wasn't there yesterday?

†

Still looking into your mirror,
have you ever heard that God
considers you a treasure of
enormous worth?

What is your first reaction to
hearing this affectionate truth
while contemplating your
reflection in the mirror?

As you receive today's Scripture
that bridges the Old Testament
with the New, listen for who God
says you are.

Read today's Scripture.

*"...out of all nations you will
be my treasured possession.
Although the whole earth
is mine, you will be for me
a kingdom of priests and a
holy nation. '... But you are
a chosen people, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation,*

*God's special possession,
that you may declare the
praises of him who called
you out of darkness into his
wonderful light. Once you
were not a people, but now
you are the people of God;
once you had not received
mercy, but now you have
received mercy.*

From Exodus 19 & 1 Peter 2

What expressive term is most
striking to you from this vivid
declaration of who you are as
God's treasured possession?

†

In the Old Testament, a priest
was a channel of God's love
and grace.

Picture yourself standing before
your family, friends, coworkers,
and neighbors—how are you
being an active channel of God's
love and grace to them?

As you hear the New Testament
portion of today's Scripture
again, do so by returning to
your imaginary mirror.

Look at yourself knowing that
as a follower of Jesus this is who
you are.

Who God is calling, enabling
and transforming you to become
during this refining season of Lent
and beyond.

Read this New Testament
Scripture.

*"But you are the ones chosen
by God, chosen for the high
calling of priestly work,
chosen to be a holy people,
God's instruments to do His
work and speak out for Him,
to tell others of the night-
and-day difference he made
for you—from nothing to
something, from rejected to
accepted.*

1 Peter 2:9-10, The Message

In these final moments today, talk
to Jesus about what is stirring in
you as you hear the truth of the
Scriptures laid over how you see
yourself in the mirror.

Then listen for what Jesus says
to you in return.

**Lord Jesus, search us,
and know our hearts;
test us and know
our anxious thoughts.
Point out in us anything
that offends you,
and lead us along
the path of everlasting life.**

Amen.