

Ashes Meditation

Speaker & Length Spiritual Director, 10 minutes

Progression When we have returned to God, our sins – in the eyes of God – are gone, just as the Pellon strips that are burned are gone.

Purpose This meditation ends the Crucifixion Service

Introduction

When we have returned to God, our sins - in the eyes of God - are gone, just as these strips have gone up in a puff of smoke. Just that fast, we are forgiven. If you ask God to forgive you for cheating on a test, he forgives. When you feel guilty again about that same sin and you go back to God and say, "Please forgive me for cheating on that test", he says, "What test?"

- God has forgiven and forgotten.
- Our sins are gone just as the strips are gone.
- Burned in the sea of his forgetfulness, as far as the east is from the west.

At this point, give a personal example of how God has forgiven you. Limit your sharing to five minutes, please.

Closing

Now listen as Jesus speaks to us:

"Confess your sins so I can forgive you...relieving you of the painful burden of sin and failure. You tend to see yourself as unclean...far removed from all that is heavenly, but I see you as my precious child. You tend to see yourself as a hopeless backslider, a pure refugee. I see you as my child. You can never dig a hole too deep for Me to pull you out of. You can never take on Satan's desperate lifestyle so fully that I cannot find you."

"Who is your accuser? Who is the one who condemns? Do not think of your Lord as quick to anger, vengeful, and spiteful. You have grumbled that my ways are too hard, too prickly, and too demanding. Those words you did not learn from Me. Your thoughts have not absorbed My thoughts. Examine the words you speak, because it is you who are the hardest on yourself. If you take the chains of sin upon yourself and expect integrity and fair dealings from the prince of evil, you are deceived. You walk into a pit blind folded because you dream of roses there. You shriek with broken bones and shake your fist at heaven, claiming God has dealt unfairly with you. O afflicted one, storm tossed and not comforted, I want to give you jewels for your foundation. When the wicked forsakes his way and the unrighteous person his thoughts and when he returns to me, I will have love, pity, and mercy for that one."

“The Father abundantly pardons and loves to multiply blessings. You shall establish yourself in righteousness and conformity with my Father’s will and order. Hear me in the wrestling of your mind for my call of love is true and powerful. I shall put you in a place far from the thought of oppression and destruction. I shall lift you up above guilt and shame and sin shall no longer be your master. I shall lift you up from fear and terror for it shall not come near to you. Do not caress guilt as though you deserve it. Confess to me your wandering and the ease with which you curse the one who loves you.”

“Guilt is not your friend, and feelings of guilt do not make you holy or clean. Be ye holy as I am holy. It is not too great a sacrifice to yield all your guilt unto me. In return, I’ll give you a new and cleansed heart. You have condemned yourself by imagining there are sins that I cannot forgive. Give up that thought. Sacrifice. Yield your thoughts unto me.”

“Allow me to purify and cleanse your heart by my own blood, which pours a constant healing and forgiving flow to wash away all thoughts and acts contrary to the will of my Father.”

“I give you the garments of praise so you can throw away that old tattered and foul smelling coat of collected sins and guilt. When you are forgiven, you are free. Don’t be a caterpillar; be free like the butterfly. Whom the Son makes free is free indeed!”