

ASH WEDNESDAY 2010

“HEART START”

You’ve heard me say it before, “Things are often not what they seem.” I often would have people come in for counseling, burdened by their problems, and they’d often say, “If only my life could be like so and so here at church.” Had to bite my tongue. For we live in a world of image and illusion, often smoke and mirrors. We can make things look good, while we’re rotting away on the inside.

If you were to summarize our three lessons today, they have a simple message. God wants what is in our heart...and not the superficial appearance that we so often put on. A powerful prophecy from Isaiah today that says forget your religious show...what God wants is justice...care for the poor, food for the hungry, freedom for all who are captive. And listen...that doesn’t mean our tokens...it means our heart and our commitment...and there is the moment of faith.

Lent is often viewed as a down time. An oppressive season. But it’s anything but. It is about the people of God seizing this time to look at our lives; our commitments or lack thereof; it is meant to be a time of renewal and new beginnings.

I hope it can be that for you, because it is a gift. That brings life and brings us to Easter. And it starts here in our hearts.