



QA: Do You Celebrate Lent? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: Do you celebrate the 40 days of Lent? [which began February 22, 2023]

ANSWER: No, because it completely violates what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount about public displays of worship!

1. Giving:

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." - Jesus (**Matthew 6:1-4**)

Worship & service to God is to be characterized by the expression "secret" (hidden). "To be seen" is our word "theater," or public display, such as seen in public: donation drives, media events, give-away days, etc. While "theater" may be entertaining, worship and service must appeal to God and not be done to appeal only to people!

2. Prayer:

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." - Jesus (**Matthew 6:5-15**)

"Seen by men" (for show) includes public displays such as advertised Prayer Days, genuflecting, making the sign of the cross, counting beads, prayer mats, etc.

3. **Fasting:**

"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."
(**Matthew 6:16-18**)

Christians should do nothing to call attention to any special activities such as Ash Wednesday, Lent designation, special priestly clothing, special haircuts, etc.

— *jtp11, February 26, 2023*