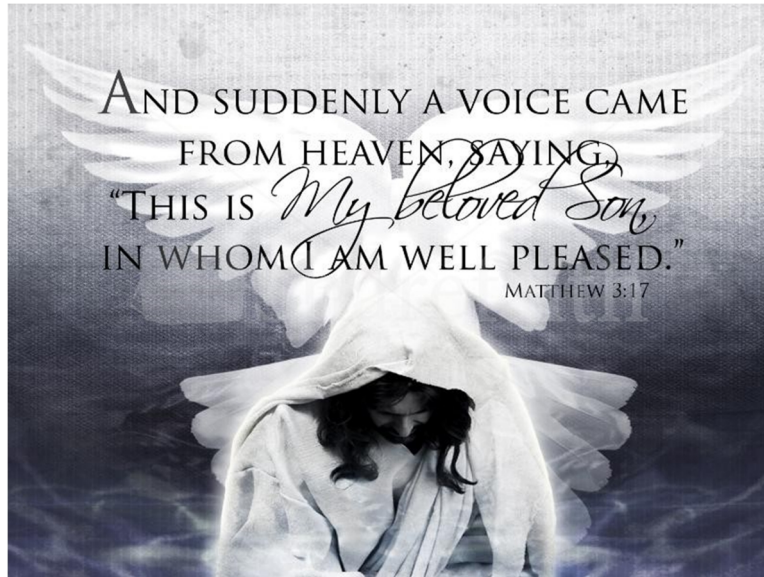


# 40 Days to Easter: a Journey of Transformation

February 27<sup>th</sup>

Daily Devotional #3

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17



Often when I have thought of God, I thought of this mighty and powerful being with a thundering voice, one who is wrathful and often disappointed in the world (more like Zeus than our God). I had a hard time reconciling the side of God I knew from the Old Testament stories with a God who loved me personally and wanted to give me a life with him that, as a sinner, I didn't deserve.

Enter Jesus...

God sent his only son because he loved the world (Jn 3:16) and its inhabitants so much that he couldn't bear the separation any more. In Matthew 3:17, God's voice came from heaven to make known not only that this was his son, but that he *loved* him, and that same God sent his beloved son to teach us and reconcile us because he loves us too! The same God who loves Jesus and sent Jesus for us loves me!

I need that love every day and need to remember how much God loves me even when I feel unlovable- because of Jesus, I am loved and forgiven, even when the world tells me I shouldn't be!

Blessings!

Lindi Parshall