

Pastor Penny's 2 Cents March 2022

Whew! What a series we just did on Resiliency! I am energetically exhausted, but resilient. Ha I know for everyone reading this you have all been there, done that. You have had those times when you were on the mountain tops ready to tackle the world, and then those times when you found yourself on a mudslide to the valley below with nowhere to look but up. I get it. And then maybe you are where I am at right now, the mountain top and the valley at the same time. How does one do that? But it happens. You have part of your life that is riding high and energized and the other part that has had it, wiped out and exhausted all resources with only God to lift you up out of the miry pit. Life is full of oxymorons, surprises, struggles, unsurmountable joys, and pain. Only the human soul can experience both at the same time. And it is only the Hope that we have in Christ that keeps us focused on him and his ministry that we can be "okay" with all of it trusting that somehow it all fits into his grandeur picture. Maybe I am just rambling and then again I have a feeling that I am speaking to the innermost part of many hearts. Oxymoron is kind of a good description for the season that we are embarking on. We just came off of the joy and wonder of the Christmas season, Epiphany, the best Valentine's from God, a super charged dose of Resiliency and now we come to a crashing halt and a 180-degree flip as we enter into the Lenten season starting with Ash Wednesday. I've got to be honest I have always struggled with Ash Wednesday, growing up we didn't really observe the day with a service. We did observe the Lenten season but it wasn't until many decades later that I felt the weight and depth of Ash Wednesday. It is that oxymoron. We spend Lent preparing for the triumphant Palm Sunday, the Passover with the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world, the Pain of Good Friday and then the Glorious Easter morn celebrating our Risen Lord. But before the mountain top celebrations we first come to a crashing halt as we observe our sinfulness, our unworthiness on our own efforts. We come face to face with our humanity and sinful nature, and it is through the imposition of ashes that we are reminded why we are in need of a savior and specifically Yeshua, salvation. So no matter where you find yourself at this moment trust in the one who made you from the dust of the earth, yet center your hope on the one whose plans for you will have you seated on the mountain top of His love.

Shalom, in Yeshua's love and grace

Pastor Penny