The Journey of the Lent

By Dr. Sabry Elias

The Pascha (Passover) Week

Pre-Lent	<u> The Lent - 40</u>	<u>Palm</u>	Good	The Resurrection
<u>week</u>	<u>days</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Feast</u>

Following are the weekly bible reading in the church during the lent, which takes us in a spiritual journey since the our Lord Jesus Christ started His ministry until He completed the salvation on the Cross to His victorious resurrection on Sunday. May the Lord open our hearts to live with Christ through this lent.

<u>The pre-Lent Week (March 3):</u> (Matt 6: 1-18). The Lord teaches us that prayer, fasting, and giving to the needy are three essential principles for our spiritual growth, and He taught us how to practice them.

First week (March 10): (Matt 6: 19-33). The Lord teaches us not to love money or to store up treasures on earth, but in heaven, for where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. He also warns us from the lust of the eye and us to keep our eyes holy. And not to worry about earthly matters, but to seek first His kingdom, and all things will be given to us as well.

Second week (March 17): (Matt 4: 1-11). Before the Lord was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, He fasted 40 days and 40 nights to be prepared for the fight, which He won (Luke 4:1-13). He showed us that the only way to overcome the devil is through prayer and fasting (Matt 17:21; Mk 9:29).

Third week (March 24): (Luke 15: 11-32). The Lord teaches us through the parable of the lost son that: 1) we are spiritually dead if we stay in our sin, and 2) He accepts us if we repent and get back to Him because He loves us as a heavenly Father.

Fourth week (March 31): (John 4: 1-42). Through the story of the "Samaritan Woman", the Lord teaches us that He makes efforts to reach sinners. However, we have to respond to His invitation, repent and accept Him in our life like the Samaritan woman did.

<u>Fifth week (April 6):</u> (John 5: 1-18). The Lord gives hopes to the sinners, even if we spent long time away from Him in our sins, His mercy will give us a second chance as He healed the paralytic man after 38 years.

<u>Sixth week (April 13):</u> (John 9: 1-41). Jesus heals a man born blind, declaring His divinity as God who appeared in flesh. He created eyes from dust as He created Adam and Eve from dust in the beginning.

Palm Sunday (April 20): (Matt 21: 1-17). The triumphal entry of the Lord to Jerusalem as a King in Palm Sunday.

<u>The Resurrection Feast</u> (April 27): (John 20: 1-18). Christ is Risen È Truly He is Risen.