

April 16, 2020

Signs of His Love - Part 4

Acts 1:3, “After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”

It is fascinating how God uses specific numbers in scripture to relate to Himself. The number 40 has much significance. Here are some instances in His word that you can look and see the importance of 40. In the Old Testament, when God destroyed the earth with water, He caused it to rain 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:12). After Moses killed the Egyptian, he fled to Midian, where he spent 40 years in the desert tending flocks (Acts 7:30). Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights (Exodus 24:18). Moses interceded on Israel’s behalf for 40 days and 40 nights (Deuteronomy 9:18, 25). The Law specified a maximum number of lashes a man could receive for a crime, setting the limit at 40 (Deuteronomy 25:3). The Israelite spies took 40 days to spy out Canaan (Numbers 13:25). The Israelites wandered for 40 years (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). Before Samson’s deliverance, Israel served the Philistines for 40 years (Judges 13:1). Goliath taunted Saul’s army for 40 days before David arrived to slay him (1 Samuel 17:16). When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). The prophet Ezekiel laid on His right side for 40 days to symbolize Judah’s sins (Ezekiel 4:6). In the New Testament, Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights (Matthew 4:2). There were 40 days between Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:3).

Needless to say, the Bible definitely seems to use 40 to emphasize a spiritual truth. And so it is with today’s example of God’s love through the 40 days that Jesus spent here on this earth after His resurrection. Again, He appeared multiple times to His disciples. These were the men who had given up everything to follow Him. He wanted to let them know that He was still there for them and that He loved them. He challenged them to be His witnesses and to tell the world about Him and His salvation for all who will believe. And He did this for 40 days to signify this spiritual truth. Why? Because God loved them and He loves you. He loves you more than you could ever imagine. He has always loved you. It was love that motivated Him to come to this earth. It was love that made Him take on the form of a man. It was love that made Him take on our sin debt. It was love that caused Him to give everything for you and for me. It was love. It is love. It will always be love because God is love.

Someone has said that if you choose to do something for 21 consecutive days, it will become a habit, but if you do something for 40 days, it will become a lifestyle. Maybe God is challenging each one of us to thank Him for 40 days in a row for His great love. I believe if you do, you will never stop thanking Him.

Dear Father, I say thank You today for Your amazing love for me. I can’t even wrap my mind around the fact that You love me that much; but You do. You love everyone in this world that much. Help me to show them and tell them about Your great love. In Jesus Name, Amen