

A. Introduction: a Lenten person ... someone who takes Lent seriously ... her name is Simone Weil (1909-1943) ... age 34 ... a philosopher and a "mystic" ... b. in France ... brilliant mind ... teacher in high school and a writer ... great sacrifice ... shared in the sufferings of others ... great concern for the poor ... student of history, philosophy, science... a difficult and complex person ... great integrity ...

B. Why a Lenten person?

1. Person of prayer ... Ash Wednesday: pray, fast, give alms 1938 ... experience on retreat during Holy Week ... severe headaches ... was given a poem by George Herbert ... recited it with utmost attention "Christ himself came down and took possession of me"

Love (III)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:  
Love said, You shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
So I did sit and eat.

2. Person of the Word: "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel"  
... Ash Wednesday ...  
... deep love for the New Testament ... reference to the fig tree  
... in 1942, a year before she died she wrote: ". . . the sense of being a barren fig tree for Christ tears my heart"  
... the awareness of being giftedness ... the question of being fruitful  
... two nightmares: quarterback for the Packers / 8 cylinder car  
... fear of not being a good steward

3. Person in Community ... importance of relationships / of friendship

"But the greatest blessing you have brought me is of another order. In gaining my friendship by your charity (which I have never met anything to equal), you have provided me with a source of the most compelling and pure inspiration that is to be

found among human things. For nothing among human things has such power to keep our gaze fixed ever more intensely upon God, than friendship for the friends of God. " (Weilreader,19)

- St. Thomas Aquinas: grace: friendship with God
- Simone Weil: realized her connectedness with others ... esp. the hurting and suffering of the world

C. Lent: third week ... three questions: has my prayer life deepened? / do I turn to God's word for guidance? / how connected am I to the community and to the saints?