

Pastor Randy's short devotion for February 25<sup>th</sup>:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

There is a story of a missionary and an Indian Chief in the early 1840's. The Missionary had traveled out west, feeling called to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus and God's love to the Indian nations in the west. One day, he met a young Indian maiden at a river stream fetching water. The Indian maid had been to some of the trading posts with her brothers and had picked up some English. The missionary told the young maid his desire to share God's Word with her people. She didn't think the Chief would allow it, but invited him to follow her to the camp. The Indian maid explained to the Chief, the young man's desire. The chief thought about it and said he must earn his trust. The Missionary lived among the people for months, picking up the language. One day, the Chief invited the missionary to join him in conversation. The Missionary told the Chief about God sending his Son Jesus into the world, Jesus' suffering dying, and resurrection. Then he told the Chief that God called us to love one another, to forgive each other, to be reconciled as brothers and sisters. The Chief thought about the missionary's words for a long time and then he said, “It would never work. One would need a new heart.” The Chief is right, we need a new heart and our Lord is the one who is willing to create a new heart to love and forgive. During this season of Lent, let us join in the prayer of David, “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”