



### **Grain**

“When we are dreaming alone it is only a dream. When we are dreaming with others, it is the beginning of reality.” Bishop Dom Helder Camara

**Submitted by Vernita Kennen, White Bear Lake, MN**

### **Field**

“1 Then God spoke all these words: 2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me... 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. 8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy... 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20:1-3; 7-8; 12-17

### **Thoughts**

Have you ever been in a church or other organization where a problem arises, and people say, “We’ve never dealt with that before. What are the rules for this?” And no one knows? Gasp. Everyone had been getting along well enough, or when they weren’t you could find ways to resolve problems if they were even big enough to bother with, until now. How will you begin? What types of guidelines will you develop and whom will they benefit? What kind of covenant will you help to create, not only to address the current dilemma, but to dream about what it means to be in relationship with one another?

God’s covenant with us begins with love. “I am the Lord your God, who brought... you out of the house of slavery.” Similar words were used in the promise God made to us in our baptism. The commandments make up another covenant that show us what living in freedom looks like. Being free doesn’t mean turning anyone close to us, a public figure, an idea, or anything else into an idol; idols leave us thirsting. It doesn’t involve betrayal or finding illegal or legal ways to steal from one another privately or via public dollars; that tears at our ability to live together. Freedom doesn’t look like attacking our neighbor behind the scenes because of what we covet; remember the immensity of what you have received and the hidden pain of the ones whose lives we think are so much better.

It’s easy to view the commandments as regulations that make us feel guilty about our human frailty. What if instead they elicited dreams of how we can live together as we lift our voices trying to make our communities work. During our Lenten journey, remember God’s covenant of love with you. Happy Monday!

### **Prayer**

Highly recommended.

### **Share**

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy