



### Grain

“If people come together they can even mend a crack in the sky.”

Somali proverb (from a writing by Hudda Ibrahim)

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

### Field

13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. 15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 27:13-24

### Thoughts

A few weeks ago, a colleague commented on how many unexpected groups were emailing her about the Coronavirus. Who'd have thought our car dealers, credit card companies, or dentists would be messaging, “We’re all in this together.”

We are indeed lumped together in this pandemic. And yet, some want to create separation, targeting or sacrificing others. Our own president uses the misnomer, Chinese virus. A sheriff in Wausau pointed to recent alleged hate crimes against Hmong members of the community. The lieutenant governor of Texas claimed many elderly people would be willing to sacrifice themselves for the economy. At the same time, Christian nationalists campaign against science. Who will have the last word?

Pilate was skilled at gaining political power, but not all power. He resisted his wife’s dream, a warning to soften and realize he wasn’t as separate and superior as he thought. Pilate forged ahead in collusion with leaders from a religion he didn’t care about to, as Matthew Skinner points out, gain power over the religious priests and to “destroy the Jewish dream.” He manipulated the crowd and shifted blame to them. *Hey, it’s what the crowd wanted. I say I am clean and blameless with the washing of my hands, and am not connected to the humanity that surrounds me, therefore it is true.*

Later, in verse 54 the centurion and others proclaimed, "Truly this man was God's Son!" The story of power that endures is of the cross revealing love and exposing falsehoods. Today, we hear echoes of “Free Barabbas,” but also opportunities to soften, and receive forgiveness for when we get caught up in the wrong crowd. Have a blessed Palm Sunday separately but together. Happy Monday!

### Share

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy