



Grain

"You can have the other words-chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it." –Mary Oliver

Field

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel... 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:13-21 and 30-32

Thoughts

One person claimed that she agreed with her governor's lifting the shelter at home order because she was ready. Who isn't ready? Whether her governor is making the right decision opening their state, which had a shelter at home order earlier than Wisconsin, I can't say. I only know that my readiness to not be sheltered at home doesn't make the coronavirus disappear. If only rallies to open businesses helped us to gain power over the virus instead of likely spreading it. So much is out of our control.

We can't completely manage joy either. When the resurrected Christ encountered the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they didn't recognize him. Likely slouched over in grief and disappointment, they focused on the trauma of their loss and own chief priests and leaders handing Jesus over to be killed. "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." The story doesn't continue with the disciples finally wising up on their own but with the statement, "Their eyes were opened." They recognized Christ's presence by grace, not because of what they could arrange for themselves.

The word, "control" comes to mind when reading debates over sheltering at home. We're ready for the pandemic to be over. Most are ready for confidence in our wellness and the economy. Many are ready to be healed. Some are ready to be employed and experience food security. Some are ready to be away from a challenging home life. We're ready for consistency from our federal government and more positive efforts like that of seven governors working together. What do we have control over in our personal lives and advocacy and what do we not, especially at this time? Writing a list might help.

But also, what hope do we have in what we cannot plan for ourselves on our current path and on the road ahead? May the grace of our resurrected Christ be with you. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy