



Grain

“Being free is living in reality.” –Father Shigeto Oshida

Field

31 Then Jesus said to the leaders who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. **John 8:31-36**

Thoughts

I just heard the epidemiologist, Dr. Michael Osterholm, disagree with the “hopeful” news some partisan advisors are sharing about the pandemic. In alignment with what epidemiologists from many health agencies are saying, Osterholm spoke clearly about what we need to do. His analysis wasn’t all depressing, and we’ll get through this, but we’re making huge mistakes by not having unified messages about taking basic precautions.

Why did I feel so relieved hearing Osterholm speak? Did he say anything terribly new? No. But sometimes when sensing that we are being told clear truths in the midst of convoluted messages can be freeing. That is so on a personal level as well. Naming a difficult truth can be the beginning of taking a more clarified path.

Truth as portrayed in St. John, is about being in relationship with Jesus. As we approach Reformation Sunday, we recall part of what sparked a movement was Luther’s realization that he suffered with a false understanding about works. He tried to be saved by his own perfection, but could never be good enough for God. The truth was he was saved by grace. Through the lens of grace he began to understand what it meant to be freed in Christ to love one’s neighbor.

We are living without knowing what will happen next, sometimes at odds with one another instead of unified against an invisible virus. We imperfectly follow our paths, carrying with us our freedom in Christ and encourage one another in love and truth. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy