



### Grain

“I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice. Not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God. I am a Christian because of Owen Meany.”

—John Irving, [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#)

### Field

<sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:41-48

### Thoughts

The message of newness flows through the Easter season. What wreaked of failure was the means by which God offered a new way of envisioning and of opening our minds to reversals.

In John Irving’s book, [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#), the main character, John Wheelwright, described his friend, Owen, as very small with a shrill voice. John and the other children would often lift Owen in the air and pass him around, much to Owen’s dismay. His high pitched voice didn’t change as he grew because of an underdeveloped larynx. As a child he was embarrassed by his voice, but gradually embraced it as part of his identity, even viewing it as a sign of being an instrument of God. Faith was important to him. And he had strong opinions about religion, politics, and the Viet Nam War.

John and Owen were best friends, despite John tossing Owen’s light body around when they were children. **Spoiler alert:** If you haven’t read the book and plan to, you may want to skip the rest of this paragraph. Toward the end of the book, Owen was on an assignment as a casualty-assistance officer in Arizona. He invited John to meet him in Phoenix. When they went to the airport for John’s return flight, they noticed a group of Catholic sisters escorting Vietnam War orphans. One of the nuns asked Owen to take the boys to the bathroom. Suddenly, a man holding a grenade kicked in the door. The boys panicked. Owen told them not to be afraid in Vietnamese. They trusted him because he was close to their size and had a young sounding voice. They listened to him and followed his instructions to lie down. The intruder threw the grenade at John, who caught and passed it to Owen. Owen leaped into John’s arms, and John lifted him into the air in what seemed like a familiar, effortless routine. Owen managed to get the grenade into a high window alcove in time to save everyone but himself. So much of what seemed unconventional and flawed about Owen prepared him for that day.

The book may stir us to recall how we’ve experienced reversals. When have our minds been opened to how God manifests? As Easter people, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we face harsh realities but also ask what is possible in individuals, groups, and systems. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy