

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

April 2024

Truth

Recently I had the opportunity to make some big decisions regarding my Mom's care. I thought I was headed in a good direction, but found myself extremely unsettled in my spirit. As I pondered this very unsettled feeling, I knew that what I really needed was truth. Our pastor recently preached a sermon on truth and I was reminded by him that Jesus is "the truth"; He tells us that Himself! Our pastor also reminded us that we need to seek truth through prayer and be willing to listen and wait. That is great advice! In a world that seems to have a lot of confusion right now, truth is so very important. Can we trust the people we are talking to, can we believe the promises they are making to us, where is the truth?

As I think about our chaplains I realize that what they take to the people they serve is truth. They are not doing this service for any personal gain, but are simply there to be a support, to listen, to provide truth and to help when it hurts beyond belief. These are times when speaking the truth in love can make all the difference in a life. Truth helps us find peace, helps us take comfort and allows us to feel the pain in a safe space. One definition of a chaplain is a person who provides spiritual care in a non-religious setting. In my book, true spiritual care requires truth or truthfulness, the ability to be trusted. I think this is one of the things our chaplains bring to the various settings they are called to.

Also, have you ever noticed that when you plant a seed, such as corn, there are weeds that come up that look exactly like corn? It is crazy! And it is not just corn, there are so many things I have planted and I struggle as the seedlings emerge to tell which is the true plant and which is the imposter. I have thought about this a lot because I think there is a life lesson in it. Originally, I thought about this as a lesson on our thought life. We need to take our thoughts captive and be sure we are not being deceived by our own thoughts or motives which "seem" to be good but may in fact be selfish or self-serving or just plain unprofitable. Recently, however, I started thinking about the verse in Matthew 7, "Beware of false prophets, which come in sheep's clothing, but on the inside they are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits." Wow, kind of like my fake corn sprouts. If I were to let them grow, I would learn they had no "fruit" at all and actually may have taken over the real corn plants.

The longer I live, the more I am impressed by the importance and the need for truth in our world. This is the opposite of imposters. I am so comforted to know that our chaplains are speakers of the truth and not imposters posing as someone who wants to help. Unfortunately, there are many imposters in our world, but Jesus is Truth and that truth is available to all of

us who seek it. Just today our pastor was talking about a way to pray for our friends or family who don't know the Lord. We can pray asking the Lord that His truth would invade their heart. I love that!

Let us all be reminded not only to seek the truth, but to ask the Lord for it and be willing to wait on Him. We need to never forget that we have our God by our side through all of it! Let's lean into Him and embrace the truth.

Lastly, thank you so much for your support of this ministry. Your prayers and financial giving are so important and so appreciated!

Jan Richards

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