

Tuesday Reflection for June 9, 2020

A Change of Heart

*Galatians 3:25-28*

*But now that faith has come, we are longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

I have lived my life as a middle of the road person. I try to see both sides of an issue and try not to judge others. I think it is also fair to say that I have served as a pastor for the last 13 years as a quiet spokesperson for the gospel. In short, I have been quiet when more was called for in part at least, because I did not want to offend anyone. I have lamented the loss of the voice of Christians in the public square and watched as mainline denominations have largely become irrelevant in our society. We have lost the ability to pray in schools, have nativities in public places and even wishing others a Merry Christmas has become suspect.

I realized several weeks ago when we were first quarantined because of COVID-19 that I could no longer be silent. I realized that I was failing to live my life as God had requested of me when God named me a child of God and gave me the gift of the Holy Spirit to live out my calling as a Christian in the world. I have fallen short in many ways not just as a child of God but also as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. I can no longer keep quiet when more is needed.

I have watched the many ways that racism has divided our great nation. I have seen the results of police brutality and a basic disregard for human life. I can and will no longer remain silent. I am passionate about bringing our nation back together again or maybe even for the first time. I am passionate that all people regardless of skin color should be loved and respected and be appreciated for the child of God that they are. A fire has been lit inside me and I must speak and work toward greater unity.

My heart has been changed in the last couple of months. I believe that it is the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. I find myself saying things that I never would have said six months ago. I said publicly that all lives matter and they do. The point is right now that black lives do not matter. I can no longer be silent. Black lives matter. Whether your skin color is black or brown or white or any shade in between you are a beloved child of God and you deserve to be treated as such.

I realize that not all people will agree with me. I realize that not all people have had a change of heart. Please know that you are still loved and cared for and offered in prayer. We can agree to disagree. I will respect those who are in different places politically, spiritually, and emotionally from me. As your pastor, I will also challenge you to examine your heart and your calling as Christians. I will not apologize for my passion or diminish it to be more agreeable. I believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to change the status quo and that as his followers we are still called to that same witness. To care for those in need, to speak for those who have no voice, to promote peace and unity. My door is always open, please come and talk.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne