

KRYPTONITE FOR CORONAVIRUS

Romans 5:18-21
Alf Halvorson preaching

We have covered ten phrases of the Apostles' Creed over the Winter Months and still have four sermons/sections to go—ending Easter Sunday. However, I feel directed, after prayer and pondering, to break from the series this Sunday to talk a little more directly or head-on about the Coronavirus Pandemic and our 'thirty thousand feet approach' to it based on the Good News of the Gospel. What difference do the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have on these challenging matters today? Can God's help (grace) reach us even in the midst of this crisis? And how are followers of Jesus supposed to act based on these truths?

1. What have been the biggest changes for you and those you love this Lenten Season? What has been the hardest thing for you to adapt to right now in the wake of COVID-19? What has been a gift that surprised you?
2. How do you picture the Coronavirus? Is it a bug? A lion? A Vapor? What Symbol have you given to denote it? _____? *And then what symbol do you have to combat it? A shield? A Hand Sanitizing Bottle? A mask? _____?
3. Read Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter five, all the way through; then focus especially on verses 18-21. How does sin sound like a virus in Paul's writing? And how does grace sound like an antidote? And how is sin personal and systemic?
4. I shared quite extensively about the Owikeno Indian Tribe 250 miles above Vancouver, WA in Canada. They went through a major individual and systemic fight about twenty years ago. How does that situation parallel ours? And how is ours different or seemingly unique?
5. Are there any practical takeaways from how they needed to receive help from the outside to solve their problem? And that the help came in the form of more than one prescription? Note: None of the interventions were earth shattering in and of themselves, but together they changed an entire ecosystem. What interventions have you taken and do you think you still need to take? What collective interventions are still necessary for our situation?
6. Are there faith implications for you and MDPC as a whole during this time? Where does "sin have a tendency to abound"? And where have you seen or can you affirm by faith that "grace abounded even more" or "super-abounded"? And how might you turn to God and God's grace in a few small but real and ultimately significant ways during this challenging time?

