

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

I was going through a book of little stories by Tony Campolo, *Stories that Feed Your Soul*, last week.

It is very short.

The story is told of a woman who, overcome with sorrow, went to St. Francis of Assisi. She explained to the saint that her son had committed suicide and she wondered what Jesus would say to him on the Day of Judgment.

St. Francis responded by saying to the woman, "Perhaps Jesus would put His arm around your boy and say, 'I understand. It was hard for Me when I was down there too. They make life very difficult for Christians like you and Me.'" P 28

As we go through each day, we are given opportunities to offer grace to others. People often ask about what we think God will do in a situation. Over 40 years ago after one of my very first sermons, a young woman in tears asked me if we could talk. There in the hallway of a now empty church she blurted out that she had just lost her baby and her baby had not been baptized. She asked if I thought God would consign her boy to hell. I said that I was so sorry for her loss and that I believed that the Jesus who walked willingly to the cross for all of us, and died there, was now holding her boy in heaven. All these years later I believe if asked again about it, I would give the same answer. It was a word of grace.

It is very important to try and speak words of grace to friends and strangers, but to also speak them to ourselves. We are halfway through the week. Perhaps we can share some kindness to others before we gather in person or online this weekend. A little grace goes a long way.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin