

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

Last week I came across a story, I was going to use in a sermon in a couple of weeks, but I changed my mind. It still is a good story, so I'm sharing it here, and then I'll say a bit about it.

'In Chinese folklore there is the story of a great teacher, very wise who it was said could answer any question. One day some boys came up with a perverse question to doom the master to answer incorrectly. One of the boys said, "I will conceal in my hands a small bird. I will ask the master what I have. If he says a bird, I will ask him if it is alive or dead. If he says dead, I'll let the bird fly away. If he says, alive, I will crush the bird and show a dead bird." The boys went to the master. "What do I have in my hands master?" "You have a bird," said the master. "That is right master, now Master tell me if the bird is alive or dead." The master answered after a long and thoughtful reflection, "The answer, my son, is in your hands"

One of the great dividing lines in our culture is on the question "who is responsible?" Christians have always said, "We are individually responsible for our actions and our words. It is called sin. Change comes from within." The counter of this is that we are not free, we are not responsible, and we can point our fingers in any direction we want to find reasons why we are in pain and not responsible. But the answer must always begin with looking in the mirror and with God's help the change is always in our hands.

In John 8.34 & 36 Jesus talks about how we can get into trouble. "34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." We are free to Christ and to make changes in our lives.

This weekend is Global Mission Weekend, and we have our own Bishop Hutterer bringing the virtual message. I anticipate seeing you online or in person. I hope you are getting your vaccines.

Blessings

Pastor Martin