

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

March 2025

Imposters

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 as the seedlings emerge I struggle to know which one 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 about 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 I started thinking about the verse in Matthew 7:15: “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! This is 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. And Psalm 119:105 tells us, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” God’s Word, the Bible, lights the way for us, shows us the right path. This is a call for us to know the Word. It reminds me of an article I read about counterfeit money. Do you know that the way people learn to spot counterfeit money is not by studying the imposters, but by studying real money? They know real money so well that they can pick out the tiniest inconsistency in fake money. Oh what a lesson for us! If we seek to know and understand God’s Word, we will be able to spot the imposters in our own life, be they our thoughts and motives or those who seek to fool us.

This reminds me of a verse in 2 Timothy. Chapter 4, verse 3 tells us, “For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.” Wow! More imposters, people who tell us what we want to hear and pretend it is truth. When I plant seed in my garden I want to see growth, it makes me feel good. But if the growth is an imposter, I need to weed it out even if what is left is a sparse crop. In the same way, we want to hear teaching that tells us we are doing well in our walk and that the path is paved and ready. It is not easy to hear teaching that tells us that we still need to work on this or that, or that maybe our heart is not where it needs to be. Who doesn’t want to take the easier path? However, we are warned of imposters (external and internal) and we need to be on our toes, “taking each thought captive” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

And we are also called to help each other in this endeavor, “spurring one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24).

In closing, we are all reminded that we need to stay alert and watch for the deceivers. We also 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, even when it is difficult!

Jan Richards

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry

Tax-deductible contributions can be given online at

<https://911chaplain.churchcenteronline.com/>

or mailed to:

County-Wide Chaplaincy

2500 NE 78th St.

Vancouver, WA 98665
