

Go and Learn What This Means

I desire mercy and not sacrifice

I have come to call NOT the righteous but sinners

90 DAYS
OF
PRAYER



The Crowd Had Been Put Outside...

And the report of **this**
spread throughout that
district

Pharisees had Achromatopsia

People who are totally color deficient, a condition called achromatopsia, can only see things as black and white.

Has the World Changed Much?

**Those who are righteous (We)
Sinners (They)**

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We All Sometimes Forget

We Are Saved

By

Grace

Feel Their Pain

“I want that pain to become your pain until you have to do something about it, until you have to shut off the robes of righteousness, and dive into that dirty water to see if you can save somebody.”

--Jim Somerville c2023

**I came to save those
who need all the help
they can get!**

Jesus BREAKS the Rules!

Tax Collector

**Enter their home and you've got
a seven-day quarantine**

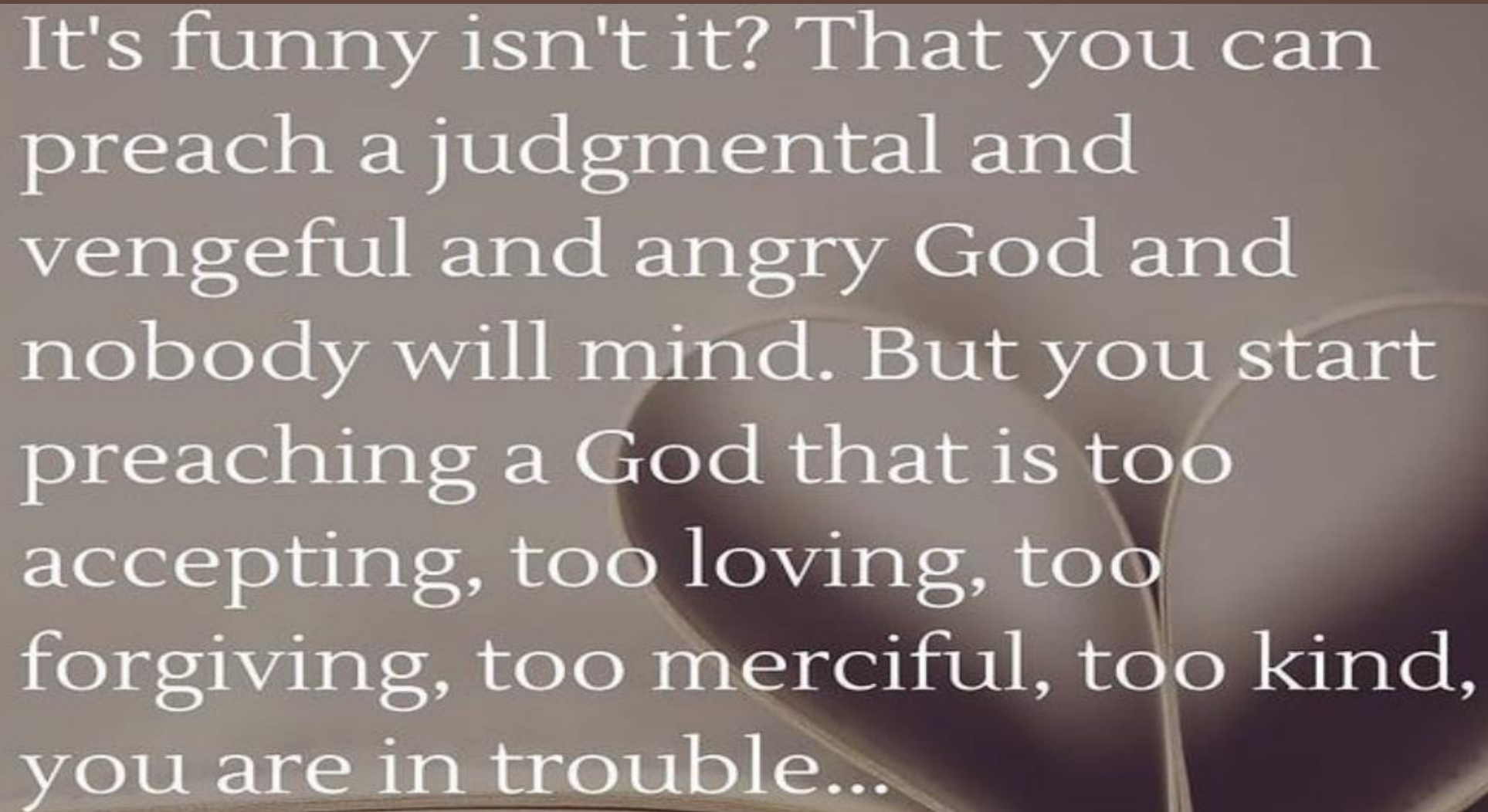
A leader of the synagogue - daughter had died

Leviticus 15

Numbers 19

The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive isn't who it keeps out but who it lets in.

—Rachel Held Evans—

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with the pages fanning out. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the book. The background is a dark, muted brown color.

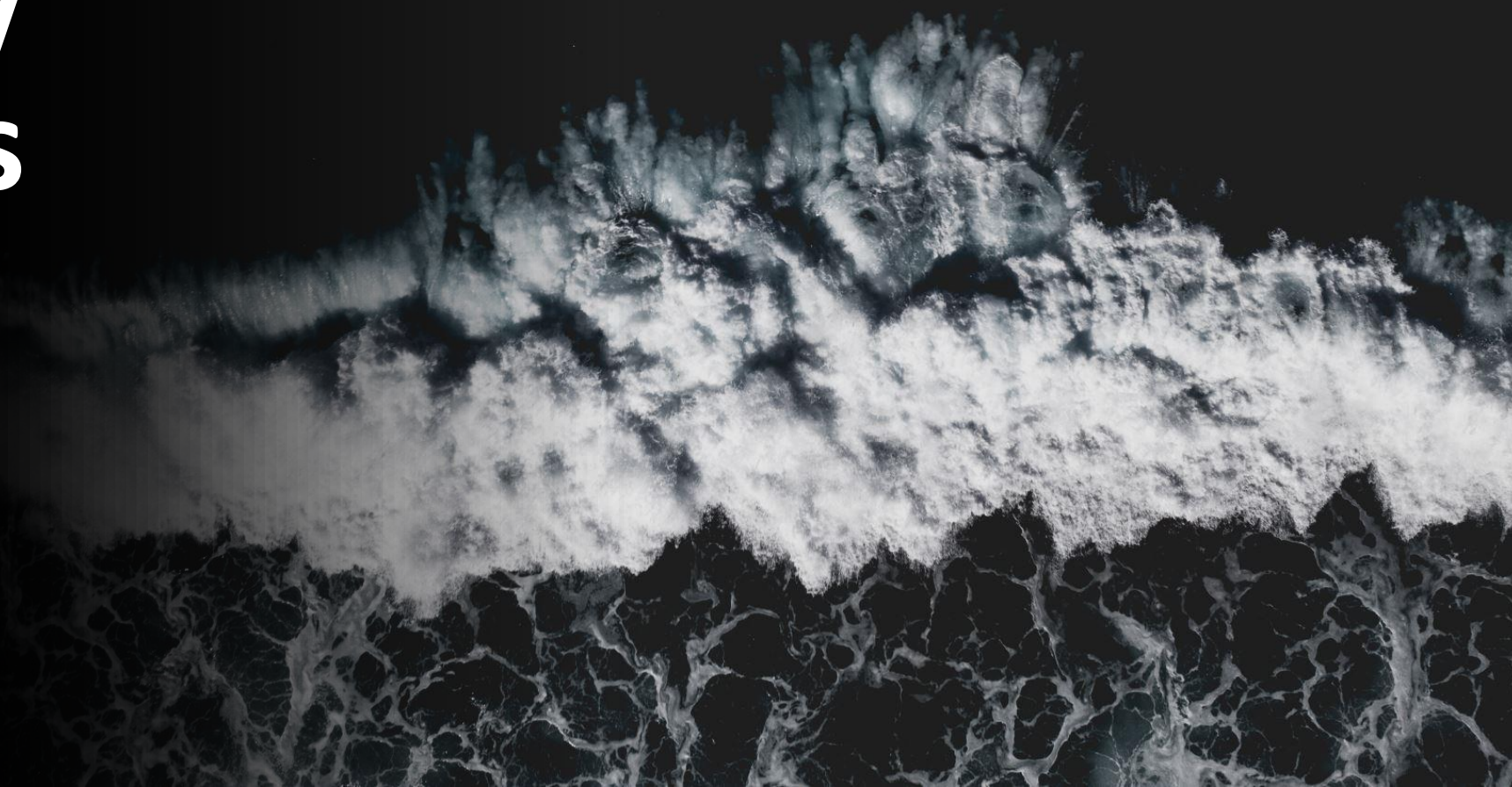
It's funny isn't it? That you can preach a judgmental and vengeful and angry God and nobody will mind. But you start preaching a God that is too accepting, too loving, too forgiving, too merciful, too kind, you are in trouble...

BISHOP GENE ROBINSON

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**We are
defined by
the stories
we tell
ourselves**



Baptismal Promise – Gifts of Discipleship

LIVE among God's faithful people

HEAR the word of God and **SHARE** in the Lord's Supper

PROCLAIM the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed

SERVE all people, following the example of Jesus

STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth

**AUTHENTIC
WORSHIP**



**INTENTIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS**



**SACRIFICIAL
SERVICE**



**RADICAL
GENEROSITY**



CORE VALUES

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

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2022 Strength in Intentional Relationships

If we want to be a growing, even thriving, congregation during a time that 90% of US congregations are in organizational chaos, the answer to doing so is simple – vision. Small Groups and People Caring for People Ministries (PCP, All are Welcome, Come to the Table, Operation 143) put our Core Value of Intentional Relationships front and center.

When our leaders *and our congregation* are focused on the future, continuing to learn from our past successes and failures; when we are focused beyond ourselves and focus on transforming lives, then it's not nearly as difficult to move the needle from chaos to action. If we take the time to do the hard work of knowing who we are, we will end up with clarity, we will know precisely where to go, and how to lead our congregation to that future. As your pastor I must stay on task and focus on the priorities that will help our congregation transform lives, grow the congregation, and grow the kingdom. Every member of our congregation must value and embrace a collective vision of high commitment and high standards. When we are **intentional about relationships** we move forward. It's logical and it happens almost effortlessly. Why? Because it's God's way. When the two come together, God is blessed!

The past two years have provided, for better or worse, a beautiful opportunity to talk about our Core Values. Those Core Values have provided a boundary of who we will be corporately as well as who we will not be. It's time to trust God even when our life together is complicated and tough.

Authentic Worship

Worship is where we are immersed in God's unconditional love. When we orient ourselves towards God, we discover that God goes to work with us, transforming us to live as children of God.

Intentional Relationships

Spending time in intentional relationships with one another is living into the identity that Jesus created for us. We are meant to be in community with one another, loving and supporting each other through life.

Sacrificial Service

We don't think of Service as something we do occasionally – an activity or event. We believe Service is a way of life.

Radical Generosity

We are called to give more time, love, forgiveness, and resources to others. We will challenge you to live more generously in every aspect of your life.

If these are our Core Values, then if you are single, divorced, married, Democrat, Republican, unaffiliated, LGBTQIA+, refugee, immigrant, unemployed, unhoused, young, old, black, brown, white, or categorized by any other worldly boundary, you are welcome here. Together, we will embrace God's mission of unity and grow into a place where all are safe to be who they are – blessed!

May God bless us as we move forward toward a blessed New Year!

Pastor Bob

Congregation Council

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

April 2023

The Practice of Contemplative Action

**Discerning God's activity with self,
community, and the world**

**Making an intentional decision
to participate in God's activity**

Surrendering all outcomes to God

Discerning God's activity with self, community, and the world

What is God doing in your life?

What is God doing within our congregation?

What is God doing in our community?

What is God doing in our world?

How are WE being called to participate in
building relationships with ALL People?

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Making an Intentional Decision to Participate in God's Activity

What resources

(time, finances, facility, education, training) will need to be utilized?

Surrender All Outcomes to God

**How do you acknowledge and
celebrate the great things that the
Spirit is doing?**

Creating Strategic Intent

Culture is a corporate way of life that forms and shapes individual lives.

Strategic Intent describes how we intend to integrate our core values into every aspect of our life together.

Strategic Intent also describes who is responsible, when things will be executed, and how progress will be measured.

Every key ministry area must be addressed in the strategic plan by focusing on how each value will be incorporated and realized.

The goal is to create a consistent culture throughout the congregation into which people are continually immersed.

People are being immersed into the same values whether they sing in the choir, help with altar guild, attend a youth function, or experience worship.

Strategic Intent

All values must be incorporated into everything the congregation does

	Authentic Worship	Intentional Relationships	Sacrificial Service	Radical Generosity
Worship				
Preschool				
Youth/ Family				
Small Groups				

Strategic Intent Three-Year Process

- First 6-months – Assessing everything
 - Ministries that align with the values will be strengthened through intentional investment
 - Ministries that don't align will either be transformed to align, removed, or replaced with something new
 - What do you need to achieve the vision?
 - Facility
 - Staff
 - Leaders
 - Finances

Strategic Intent Three-Year Process

- Next 18-months – Working the plan
 - Leaders are identified, equipped, and unleashed to follow the strategic intent
 - Ministries are developed according to the strategic intent
 - The timeline is adjusted as necessary
 - Metrics are used to assess progress

Strategic Intent Three-Year Process

- Final 12-months
 - Everything is evaluated based on the strategic intent
 - What has gone well?
 - Where do you see the plan being effective?
 - To what do you attribute the success?
 - If goals did not get achieved, why not? What went wrong? (e.g. poor leadership or execution, not enough resources, lack of passion or energy, poor timing)
 - What adjustments need to be made?
 - The Strategic Intent gets revised and updated
 - Remember that the Strategic Intent is to be a fluid document that changes as we go based on our experiences

Social Media

Access point for people to beat up on other people

People in a perceived weakened position in a system act out through others to gain power

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