

LELC Pentecost 3 June 30 (July 4th) Fair warning: Lots could be said for the texts

Preacher Confession - looked at dates for
Summer Sundays June 30/July 7th. Hooray,
can skip talking about July 4th anything
too rah-rah U-S-A patriotic (doesn't belong?)
No, not faithful. "Don't get me started..."

Then I read the lessons for today. Includes
this. Galatians 5:1 (Oh, man!)

You know all over the country this
weekend (weekend before the 4th unless
it's a Friday) Freedom Fests, Freedom Festival.
Depending on who is hosting: ~~the~~ Music, Food
Fair
Rock bands, Beer, Brats, Bouncehouses
Contemporary Xian Rock Bands, Lemonade Brats, Bounce
Left to wonder what, exactly, is the "Freedom"
being celebrated? Freedom to have guns; ^{learn} _{NATO}
our resistance to having anyone tell us what
to do? 4th ~~has~~ morphed over my lifetime.
Grew up in decades after McCarthyism, ^{rural} _{western}
Iowa. Admittedly a little vague, (I was a kid)
Our democracy, and capitalism (American Dream)
Vs. Communism, the Red Menace. We welcomed
those escaping the tyranny of Communist regimes.
My ^{Taught to be proud of} _{homeland}. America (as I was incorrectly taught)
USA, was the land of opportunity, Lady Liberty

held her lamp high in welcome saying
Give me your tired, your poor, your tempest-tossed
yearning to breathe free...

Somewhere early on in my ~~sub~~ ^{sub}conscienceness
I internalized Norman Rockwell's 4 Freedoms

(Need a screen) ~~The~~ Man speaking at a town hall
Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion = people praying,
This Table laden w/ food - Freedom from Want
Children being tucked into bed - Freedom from Fear.
Freedom - deep human longing for self, ~~for~~ ^{for} our children.
(Want/Fear suffering) (almost all white, ~~male~~ male.)
still drives people to leave, go to new land/

What, if anything, do these ideals of freedom have to do with freedom ours in Christ?
Almost nothing. And everything.

Galatians - context, Christians: Circumscissors adherence to the "rules"
Paul - No you don't. you gotta this in order to be loved by God. blessed
In X's death: resurrection

all between us: God is good.
Christ has made us free from shovels, oughts
Luther ^{totally} took this passage to heart in his day
Wrote treatise Christian Liberty. Nov. 1520.

Free from rites: rituals, indulgences, every other
"rule" religious authorities, keepers of status quo
were throwing out there.

Luther also took next bit very much to heart
"Only do not use freedom for self-indulgence."

Starts out with this: (remember context, lords & ladies)

--- A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all,
subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant, subject to all.

In X, we are unequivocally freed from shame: guilt of our sin, brokenness, any sense of unworthiness.

In X, we are reconciled to God now & forever
in this life: living & whatever comes next.

No more can fear of hell, death
(Mighty Fortress) assault us.

∴ Free lord of all, subject to none
(least of all judgmental, exploitative
religious authorities,

status quo keepers - ~~keepers~~
use religion to keep themselves; friends rich & powerful.

Luther took the next bit very much to heart too. ②

Only do not use your freedom for self-indulgence.
Our gratitude, once we truly grasp power of freedom,
what God has done, will be so IMMENSE we
won't be able to help ourselves, we will want
to help, serve, love our neighbors, especially
those in need, those suffering in any way.
So much so, we become chose to become servants
of all at all

Wonderful book - commend to you.
"Forgotten Luther" Lecture series by same name
How that understanding, obligation of mutual care
shaped society, world. Understand that

Freedom that is ours in Christ, choosing to be followers of Christ, will lead us to way of living, being in the world where we will want to care for each other. (and not just ourselves.)

Brings me to Luke text. Typical day in the life of ~~the~~ following (or not following) Jesus. 2 Parts. Part One ^{village} ~~rejects~~ his message. Should we call down fire? No. Not how I roll.

Look around the country these days. People who, IMHO are rejecting ways of Christ (even though they call themselves Xian) Can I call down fire? No, not how I roll.

Part Two: Would-be followers.

Foxes have holes, son of Man, no where to lie his head

Let the dead...

No one who looks back...

Might seem enigmatic. To me, pretty obvious when I think about how I make choices.

Personal: last month or two. Opportunities to raise voice (Freedom of speech). Fr. Rendón

Rev. William Barber
Voces de la Frontera.

Didn't go do any.

Busy. Family obligations, Overnight trip... How to get there, where would I stay?

Can't speak for any but me, I'm so good at

Finding excuses not to act
not to boldly follow Jesus
(timidly follow, talk about following)

But actually follow, lay it down & follow.
I've got to.... (crickets)....

~~The~~ Middle admonition. Let the dead bury
their own dead, as for you, Go! Proclaim
the Kingdom of God.

Urgency. Proclaiming, by word & deed.
God's reign of love most urgent thing
of all.

Caring for little ones, suffering ones, is urgent

They are suffering now. Here in good ole
USA

~~Not~~ Not on some distant shore
Our own streets, POC, LGBTQ folk, ~~the~~ ^{Fear for their} safety

On our own southern border, children shivering
in tin foil blankets.

Our ^(relative comfort) ~~problem~~ isn't so much looking back as
looking away. As if we can un-know
what we know.

Want the Spirit to give me some different
kinds of freedom:

Freedom from inertia, passivity
From hardness of my heart
from self-indulgence
From fear - anxiety over future
what could happen if...

Give me freedom to love, share, care
with abandon.

Freedom to resist powers that be, with boldness
courage

Freedom to stand in solidarity
with least, last, rejected ~~with~~ creativity

~~I could~~

Oh wait! Those are exactly the freedoms I have been given in my baptism into Christ, by power of Holy Spirit.

^{Only}
The forces of world's status quo keeps tell me otherwise

~~Ever so. From At least~~

Keep coming here. This space to worship: Thank God for the freedom from guilt & shame any sense of unworthiness.

Keep being welcomed to this table.
Fed with bread of life, cup of salvation.

Keep being sent out to live out radical self-giving love of Christ, to love with abandon to resist evil to stand with the suffering world.

Do it fully?
No.
∴ Grace
∴ Begin again
each day

~~From~~ in the only place makes sense - our own homeland. U.S.A. on our own shores, in our own streets,

Live the fullness of our freedom in Christ to love boldly - not just once a year. but every day. Every day a good day to celebrate, live out, freedom ~~to~~ love ours in Christ. Amen

Until true our land, every land.