

*“I Am Not Supposed to Hear You!”*

Christ the Redeemer Church  
October 4, 2009  
World Communion Sunday

Mark 10:2-16  
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October 4th in Texas. World Communion Sunday. It is finally raining with some authority here. After two years of drought-type weather, we are getting 7 days of rain.

October is a month of significance for me. Not just because it is the month of the World Series. October has a good number of special days in it for me.

October 4, 1971. 38 years ago today in 1971 I boarded a plane for my first plane ride in Cincinnati (Reds had not won a Series in many years, by the way) and I flew to visit San Antonio for 6 weeks. Basic Training they called it. Life has never been the same. I was introduced to some new rules in a new life. We all have moments in which our entire future was changed permanently. New life. New rules.

October 6, 1981 a daughter was loaned to us for raise. October 16, 1989 a son was loaned to us to raise. New hours and new rules began to govern our lives.

October in Chicago. The Cubs never make Octobers in Chicago fun. The attention now is on football since the Cubs failed again to make the World Series. Maybe next year.

Someone asked Lisa recently if she was scared when Cameron got involved in doing things in life that were possible dangers to his piano hands. She said she just had to get to the point where she handed Cameron's hands over to God's hands. She told God that Cameron's hands were in God's hands now. She could not protect his hands. Life is a risky business and boys need to be boys and girls need to be girls. Lisa's rules were to let Cameron live life even at the risk of his piano hands being hurt. He is now a freshman at Northwestern University, studying piano and engineering. The rules have changed in life.

He learned this week that if he wants clean clothes to wear then HE has to wash his clothes. No mom around to do the laundry at college. He put up a chart on his wall this past week detailing how many hours he needed to sleep each day. How many hours for homework. New rules to live by in order to survive this new life.

World Communion Sunday. Nora called from Germany on Saturday and told us this weekend is a big Holiday weekend in Germany.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. 20 years ago this weekend the Iron Curtain came down in Europe. This weekend is a huge Holiday now to celebrate the year 1989 when a split Germany became re-united Germany. Families could re-unite with families. Friends with friends. New rules.

October in 1999. Amity turned 18 in Boston and was getting ready to go away to Auburn for college. We gave her a surprise birthday party and she got a Dodge Neon. She still drives it. Over 120,000 miles on it now. It was her dream car. A new life was about to begin.

Daniel's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday was coming up 10 days after Amity's surprise party. We asked Daniel what he wanted for his birthday. He said, "I want you to give me a surprise birthday party like you gave Amity. I want to be real surprised like she was. I will help you plan it and then I will act surprised."

I had never thought to ask for a surprise birthday party. Smart kid. He gets it from his mom.

October 2009 in San Marcos. We were ready for bed in our house one night this past week and the phone rang. It was a parishioner in our church who lives across the street. She was screaming in the phone that she needed me immediately. I thought something had happened to her husband Larry. When I calmed her down I finally could understand what she was saying. She said a snake was in her kitchen and that Larry, who could still not see due to his eye surgery, was swinging away at a snake that he could not see.

They never covered this snake hunting stuff in my seminary. We were not into snake handling in my seminary.

I got on my boots, Pam got on her red cowgirl boots and told Johannes to come with us to go snake hunting in Texas. He is here from Germany to see and experience Texas in only 30 days. He was so excited to get to go snake hunting in Texas. They don't spend their evenings in cool Germany that way. He kept yelling out, "I am going snake hunting in Texas!" A dream come true for him. New country and new rules and new games.

We all got on our cowboy boots and grabbed shovels and ran across the street to save Shirley. Pam took the time to teach Johannes how to walk like a Texan. Bowed legs and swinging arms, marching off to war. Johannes said he needed a horse and a gun to feel like a real snake-hunting Texan. Pam loved wearing her red boots late at night. Johannes was learning some new rules in life.

The next morning at 6:30 a.m. Pam and I were in the driveway of our home as she was loading up her car to go teach 22 kindergartners that day. A rooster crowed. Pam, not a person who loves mornings anyway and who had been up late the night before hunting snakes, stopped and started yelling back at the rooster. She yelled, "**I am not supposed to hear you!**"

We live in a neighborhood that does not allow roosters to live here. Not everyone follows the rules obviously. Every morning as we load Pam's car the rooster crows. I laugh every morning at the rooster crowing and at Pam yelling back to the rooster across the street "**I am not supposed to hear you.**" I used to tell her that her yelling would wake up the

neighbors. She said, "Good." I told you, she does not like hearing roosters at sunrise.

A couple in Poland just re-united after being separated the past 70 years due to the Iron Curtain rules. He is German and she is Polish. They fell in love during the war but the town leaders in her town prevented them from marrying. They found each other this past year and they finally married after carrying photos of each other for 70 years.

They were interviewed and asked what it was like to be married after waiting 70 years for each other. They said they have just a few years left together in life but they wanted to spend these few remaining years with each other. Life is brief and precious and not to be wasted on being bitter or ruminating negatively about how life might have been. ([Elvira Profe and Fortunat Mackiewicz Reunite After Iron Curtain Falls](#) )

October 2006. This church gathered at our house and planted an oak tree in our back yard, symbolizing the new church and a new ordination. Someone asked me recently how the tree was doing and I told them the tree was alive and doing well. They asked what I would do if the tree died. Before I could answer Leslie Fatout answered, "We would just plant another tree." Isn't that a great answer? If something happens to a symbol or to a dream of ours that goes awry in life, just plant a new one and continue on in life.

Point this morning on World Communion Sunday? Life is full of new situations each day and the bottom line, according to Jesus, is to treat each other with total respect and love and equality. Even our spouses. Even our children. Even husbands need to be loved.

Jesus told the religious men who were trying to trick him with the question on divorce that Moses only gave the directions on divorce because the people were stubborn. Jesus told the men, the religious leaders, that women were not pieces of property but that there were equal with men, having been created by God. After three years, some of the religious leaders got tired of such nonsense so they tried to quiet down such teachings.

Jesus told the religious folks that children were to be valued also. That message got old also and they tried to quiet down that idea by nailing the voice to a cross. But the Voice would not be silenced so easily. It was not a new idea. It was a reminder of an old idea that all people are to be valued and to not be treated as property that you can just discard.

Not everyone plays by the same rules. But the Voice of God's Love could not be snuffed out, even if not everyone played by the same rules.

We ran the snake out of the Shirley's house. Toward the rooster's pen. Three pairs of cowboy boots, one excited German, and some swinging shovels and hoes did the trick.

On the farm our hens and roosters kept the snakes away from the house. But we are not on the farm anymore. New rules. Come and take communion as millions around the world are doing this morning on World Communion Sunday. It is October, a good month. Amen.

