

Nothing has Changed Everything has Changed

Perspective:

I looked at our front yard the other day. The grass was completely covered with leaves. I thought, "it's too early for the leaves to be falling." Then I realized it was the end of September. It's fall and leaves "fall" in the fall season. The warm, dry weather of the past few weeks caused me to think it was still summer. It isn't. After that realization came the thought, "Ugh, it's leaf cleanup time again. Same as last year. Nothing changes." Of course things change. The seasons change, at the moment from summer to fall. But I still had to clean up the leaves just like last year, and the year before, and the year . . .

Those leaves came into my thoughts as I read a comment about the Las Vegas massacre. It was made by a parent whose child was a student at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and a victim of a similar massacre at that school on December 14, 2012. It was a single shooter who used multiple weapons able to discharge rounds quickly. The parent said, "Nothing has changed since that day at the elementary school."

Everything changed for that parent on that day. And it was a change that he will live with every day he is alive. Everything changed for each of the victims in Las Vegas, whether killed or injured and their families. Everything changed also for those at the Las Vegas concert who escaped injury. That experience will be part of them every day. I wonder when the intensity and impact of the massacre will begin to fade for those of us who know about it but did not experience it. It has been a while since I have thought about or heard about "Sandy Hook."

Change is hard. I continue to be confronted by my own inability to change. To change behavior, to change thinking, to change presumptions is a challenge for me and I suspect it is for everyone in varying degrees regardless of what our behavior, thinking, or presumptions are.

Yet I believe everything - everything - has changed. It has happened through Jesus. He, too, experienced how difficult it is for people and systems and what's right and wrong to change. What he said and to whom he said it, what he did and with whom he did it caused disagreement and resistance. It caused his death. And as you and I know the Jesus' story continued. It continued because he was raised from death. It continues with New Life. It continues because that New Life is for you and me. It is for you and me especially when it appears and feels like nothing has changed. It has. Everything has changed. That is the promise & hope & power you have through Jesus the one who is risen, the one we call Christ and Savior.

Pastor Gary