

## Another Word, April 1, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

Well, it must be spring. In the last week we have seen a beautiful day of 70 degrees and sunshine, snow, rain, sleet, high winds and thunder and lightning. Just your typical run of the mill Ohio weather pattern. But it still beats 10 below and ice.

The “Big Bands and All That Jazz Society” will spotlight the all area musical group, “Abstractions” this coming Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. Also, there will be a special “Surprise Musician” joining them. This will be the next to the last concert of the season. Hope to see you here.

We hope our presentation during Lent of Jesus’ passion, as recorded in chapters 14 and 15 of the book of Mark, is giving you a sense of the sacrifice Christ has made for you and me. And we hope you will also be able to join us for our Maundy Thursday Service, April 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7 pm.

On Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ashland Ministerial Association will again present the “Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.” This service, at Trinity Lutheran Church begins at noon and lasts 3 hours. You may come when you can and leave when you must. I will be reading Jesus’ second words from Luke:23, 35-43.

It’s amazing that Easter is almost upon us. During the service April 20<sup>th</sup>, our bell choir will help ring in this world changing day of Hope, Faith, and Resurrection!

May we pray.

Dear loving Father. We give you thanks each day for your gifts of merciful kindness and faithfulness. May we never become so obsessed with our lives that we lose sight of your presence, your guidance, and your love. As our worldly season moves to a rich and blooming spring, may the season of our lives also spring forth in new ways to share your promise of faith, grace, and love to others. We hold up to you those in need of your calming and peaceful touch. May they feel your presence and find comfort in your arms. Help each of us stay connected to you, and bloom in ways that help others grow in your love. In Jesus' most Holy name we pray, Amen.

I always loved going to my uncle's farm. He had about 100 acres just outside Polk, and we, as a family, went there at least once a month as I was growing up. In my teen years I would often go every day during the summer to help with anything from the planting to the harvesting of his crops.

In my younger years, I would follow him to the barn to "help" feed and care for the animals. Besides sheep and pigs, he had a small herd of cows. The cows were what interested me. My uncle taught me a lot about these large yet seemingly dossal animals. I learned that the herd had a leader, and the rest had a specific place in line that was always followed when they either entered the field or returned to the barn at night. But one of the neatest things was that cows have multiple chambers in their stomach which helps them digest their food. This is needed because of the tough grasses they eat. However, to prepare the grasses for digestion, the cow will chew a mouth full seemingly forever.

They stand and chew...and chew...and chew...and then they chew some more. This is known as chewing their cud.

I hear someone out there asking; Rich, where are you going with this little bit of animal trivia? To start, I think everyone reading this can remember their mom or dad at the table saying, "Slow down and chew your food!" The idea being that you would either choke on your food or possibly get a stomach ache if you rushed too fast. And, if you slowed down, you just might enjoy your food more as it nourished your body.

Joshua, in the Book of Joshua, 1:8, is facing a major challenge. He is about to lead God's people into the promised land. Here is what God says to him. "Be strong and courageous", (vs 6) and "Do not let this Book of the Law (the Bible) depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (vs 8)

Note the word, meditate. In Hebrew, this word literally refers to a cow chewing its cud. God is telling Joshua, and us, that He wants us to read his word and chew on it. Not just read some and move on, but to take small bites, think on them, and chew on them. Even try to associate the verses with something in your life. Then during the day, refer back to the words you chose and ask God to help you make the words a part of your day. Finally, at night, think back on how well the words fit into the activities of your day.

Oh, and did you catch God's promise? If you chew on His word daily, "You will be prosperous and successful." It's easy to gulp down large amounts of God's word, but that isn't enough. We can only get the true benefits of His word if we chew on it. If we take our time and digest it.

So, my word to you is, “Slow down, take small bites, and chew on them to be nourished by His Word.”

In His Peace,

*Rich*