



The Monthly Beacon

"When Jesus spoke to the people again, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- John 8:12

Oh, Oh Freedom

"Oh Freedom!"

*Golden Gospel Singers**

Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom
Oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free
Oh, freedom

Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom
Oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

No more weepin' (don't you know),
no more weepin'
No more weepin' over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free
Oh freedom

Oh, freedom ..."

This month we celebrate freedom but what exactly does that mean? The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." So then why does oppression still exist and why is there classism? And how can we fail to offer the same opportunities to everyone instead of a select few? What exactly does "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" mean?

Over the past several months we have watched the ongoing problems at the border wall. Children separated from their parents, mothers placed in perceived holding cells restricted from the ability to take care of their daily needs. And how can we dare forget the father and his child who in search for a better life lost their lives in that pursuit? We observe the pictures, our hearts are pierced, and we shake our heads, maybe whisper a prayer and then go on about our daily activities.

As Americans there are some ugly scars that continue to persist in this present day, in this country. Men and women died for the freedom of others. They believed that from the beginning God created us, He made no distinction of class, race, or otherwise; "He created them male and female, and He blessed them and called them "human" (Genesis 5:2)". As people of faith we need to rise up and carry out the mission of Christ and it means getting involved in the uncomfortable. Our life is not our own, we have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). It should not be left to one individual who is unafraid to speak out against injustice or defend the inalienable rights of others.

God extended salvation to everyone and "there is no respect of persons with God (Romans 2:11)". It is the action and attitude we must have with all. Christians must lead, we must be the voice of those whose voices have been silenced. We have an obligation to be good stewards to the poor, orphans, and the widows exercising compassion and love. We have a voice and we must use it to evoke change. It may not be popular, but it is right! And so, in the words of Martin Luther King's I Have a Dream speech**:

"...this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride. From every mountainside, let freedom ring!



And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And so, let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that:

Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring

*Excerpt of lyrics from Oh Freedom written by R.W. Singleton.

**Excerpt of Dr. Martin Luther King's, I Have A Dream Speech, August 1963

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