

Friday - April 12

"But by the grace of God, I am what I am."

1 Corinthians 15:10

Today I had the pleasure of having lunch with a friend from church. She asked if I was going to write one of these Lenten devotions. I asked why. She said although she wanted to contribute by writing a devotion, she was struggling with writing on the chosen topic of grace because it was hard to define and challenging to write about. We talked about how grace seemed to be the really big thing God did when you really messed up. Then we chatted that whereas many of us would appreciate God's grace, not all people would feel comfortable writing examples down or sharing it with church mates. In my most simplistic definition, God's grace to me feels like simple goodwill or the benefit of the doubt to try again. I've seen God's hand in the grace offered in prison ministry either with offering cookies to those incarcerated or rehabilitation for those prisoners exiting looking for employment. Perhaps the human definition of grace is when you just don't feel like you can rise in the way you wish in a specific situation, and others afford you the benefit of the doubt. I think the paradox of grace is that it is both really big and really small, like God's mercy for convicted criminals or just a friend writing two devotions so yours won't be missed.

Grace is also when you turn in two well-intentioned devotions two days late.

Dana

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for the countless ways, both seen and unseen, that you afford us your grace each day, both when we are asking and when we need it but don't. Amen.