

*Based on Job 19:23-27a
Pentecost 22; Proper 27*

Job said,
"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Job 19:23-27a

Here in of the very oldest written works in the scriptures, Job proclaims his confidence in God's power over death. Our understanding of the resurrection is murky, and to be honest, the Bible witness to it is oftentimes contradictory. Nevertheless, our confidence, rooted foremost in Christ's own resurrection, that our mortal death is not the final word of our existence is the foundation our faith rests on.

But why are we given such a promise? To bolster our confidence in this life and embolden us to fearlessly live in the light of God's love. Jesus shows us that that there should be no barriers to our

loving response to the world. But especially He shows us to be unafraid in our confrontation with the evil we encounter.

Now courage can be hard to find; there's a reason we laud and honor those who are courageous. And yet, such courage is needed. The way of Jesus is not the way of passivity and acceptance. It is a cry for justice and a cry for liberty.

God's promise is an invitation to freedom, but not a freedom to do whatever we want and to heck with everyone else. No, it is not a freedom from limits; it is a freedom from fear and a freedom to love courageously and maybe even a little recklessly. A freedom to say NO to indignity, to oppression, to abuse and a YES to decency, to mercy, and to love.