

Yearning to be Free
Pastor John Hicks
First United Methodist Church

A mighty woman with a torch, “Give me your tired, your poor”, says she, “Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Few passions run deeper in the human heart than this desire to be free. There's something in the human soul that just knows that being in bondage is not how we were created to be.

By my desk is a piece of the Berlin wall. It was people's desire for freedom that eventually tore that wall down. Throughout history, it has been the desire for freedom that has driven people many times to come together to topple dictators and pull down statues. It was the yearning for freedom that drove a ragtag group of colonists to grab their muskets and take on the British Empire, and America was born.

Over the past weeks, we have seen history made again as hundreds of thousands of people risked everything in a real life struggle for freedom in a place called “Liberation Square” (Tahrir). Once again, the unquenchable passion to be free has changed a nation.

If you think about it, there are many around us who need a Liberation Square experience. Maybe we need one ourselves. The Bible tells us, "Anyone who commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). At first thought, sin may not seem like that big a deal, especially if we just see sin as the breaking of some religious rules. But it's so much more. Sin's at the heart of broken families, broken relationships, broken hearts, and a broken world. Sin's in every self-centered, dirty, or dishonest thing we've ever done. Sin's in every word or action that has hurt someone. Sin is a disease of "me", when multiplied by six billion "me's" on this planet, extracts a terrible price. As someone once shared, “sin is the hijacking of our life from the very One who gave us our life.” Sin enslaves us.

As we've seen in the past couple of weeks, freedom often comes at the price of blood. I know mine did, but it wasn't my blood, but the blood of God's Son that set me free. “To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood...--to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.” (Revelation 1:5-6)
The day I told Jesus I was His was the day this sin-slave went free. And let me tell you, there's no feeling like the day you know you're finally free. For me and for millions, that was the day we experienced our Liberation Square through our Liberator, Who paid the price so we would never have to.