



Mixed Metaphors

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Do you ever mix up your metaphors? I know when the words are coming out that they're not quite right, but I can't stop them. Sometimes I jumble eggs in a basket, hat in the ring, and name in the hat. It's a mess. I throw my eggs in the ring and try to pretend I always intended to make omelets.

I heard what I thought was a mixed metaphor while listening to a Christian radio station over the weekend. The DJ asked her listeners to consider what was rattling around in their ... hearts. I was sure she intended to say "heads." Stuff rattles around in my head. A lot. All the time. Especially now as I prepare for this transition to Idaho. I could answer the question of what is rattling around in my head.

What is rattling around my heart takes me to a very different space. In the end, I think I like this metaphor better – whether it was scrambled or not.

We are commanded, "[L]ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt. 22:37 (NRSV)). This is the first and greatest commandment, with the second being to love our neighbor as ourselves. This love is done not just with our minds, but also with our hearts and our souls. Staying in touch with what is rattling around in our hearts attunes us to how we love and how we demonstrate that love.

My sense is that the ponderings of the heart don't get sidelined by logistics and budgets and past attempts. They nudge us to take action that might be considered foolish for financial security or long-term sustainability. Those rattlings of the heart go to ... well, the heart of the matter. They go to the core of justice and compassion and longing. They take us to that place of love given to us in the gospels.

When we pay attention to those longings of the heart, the Spirit laughs in delight. We begin in those moments to glimpse the Kingdom. Our minds might handle the logistics, but our hearts *dream*. That is when the Spirit can really move us.

When our intentions feel frustrated or bogged down, I pray we will pay attention to what is rattling around in our hearts. May those rattlings offer a new vision, a deep connection to God's love and intentions, and the opening of possibilities.