

Monday, 22 February 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

The tallest flagpole in Virginia, at 212 feet tall, is just in our backyard along I-95 passing through Chesterfield County. When asked about the height, the owner remarked on the obvious desire to have it be easily visible, which it is (I can attest to that!). But when asked why 212 feet specifically, being a somewhat unique number, I recall the owner responding, "Because that's the temperature water boils at."

The two might seem to have nothing to do with one another: a flagpole and boiling water. But his point is deeper, and very applicable to our lives of faith. Water must reach 212 degrees before it will boil, converting from liquid to gas. Even one degree less, 211 degrees, and it's still water; there's no conversion or transformation of state. The owner of the flagpole says he encourages his employees to go that "extra degree" in their work and in their lives to allow transformation and growth to have a chance. And a flagpole at 212 feet serves as a reminder.

We often think, in Lent, that we must "go big or not at all," to paraphrase. We must seek out and do the grand things. But Lent is just a focused time of moving in little degrees toward God, aligning our hearts and minds a little bit more each day to the heart and mind of Christ. As Peter says in one of his letters, "For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-8).

As we move into the first full week of Lent, be gracious with yourself, and continue moving forward in faith, one degree at a time, until you are opened to transformation in the Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the ability to move even one degree closer to you today, and another degree tomorrow, until I grow fully into your disciple in faith and practice, for the glory of your good news and the joy of your kingdom. Amen.