

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 5.15.20
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From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:25 AM
To: MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>
Subject: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 5.15.20

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS 2 Cars 1 Dog Runner (Very early walk and so the numbers are skewed)

I only have a few minutes to write—but as a result of a developing sense of loyalty, to myself at least, I couldn't go two weekdays without writing my daily thoughts from my walk. I have a 730 AM Dakota-Scott County Workforce Meeting followed by a webinar put on the economic development team of Goodhue County on re-opening one's business safely. It meant I had to take an earlier walk and type quickly—so the errors might be greater today than usual.

I was thinking a great deal yesterday about a comment the City Administrator made on my weekly Lake City Local Issues call about having to make the decision to close the pool in Lake City for the summer. His concern was that people might go to a neighboring town a few miles away and their "loyalty to their own pool will be lost forever." I am sure this same doubt is being experienced by the neighboring city as well, and not only by them. I doubt there is any organization, community group or restaurant or business that isn't worried that their customer base won't be returning when they re-open. And if as if it were a sign from heaven, as I got the Lake park of my walk, there were two geese with their baby goslings to speak from the animal world to me about loyalty.

I never took a course on animal behavior in college—though I did take a forestry course. But everyone knows that geese mate for life. I have no idea if they remain loyal to one another-but they do mourn the loss of their mate according to animal behaviorists. In any event, that sign of seeing those geese reminded me that what I was thinking was what I had to write about today. Loyalty is a difficult construct. It demands that there is a level playing field and that both parties uphold their end of a relationship. If the last 50 years of worker inequity has taught us anything—it is that managerial loyalty to its work force is the exception and not the rule. I am equally sure that the reverse statement could be made by many of those managers who feel rightfully so that worker loyalty is out the door. Just the notion of the transfer portal in college football reminds you that a letter of intent once signed is only a piece of paper.

This is an interesting subject for me for many reasons. I left the pulpit to enter into a field where loyalty is not necessarily a calling card of the profession. No better example exists than the embarrassment of Benny Gantz running against sitting in the same government with an indicted Prime Minister and suddenly becoming his emasculated deputy. Oh well, all is fair in love and politics. It was a real issue for me and I am blessed to be working for an individual who has made

keeping her word a pledge not only to her staff but to her voters. But, as we return to a new world in the coming weeks and months, I do wonder what those swimming pools and restaurants and businesses and organizations and clubs and churches and synagogues are going to find. In the world in which we live, loyalty is not seen as a necessary definition of any group any longer. Loss of pensions over the years have demonstrated that to too many people. In a consumerist society, loyalty is fickle. Just ask the developers of Myspace or even Mark Zuckerberg's college classmates. There is much more to write about this. Indeed the Torah reading for tomorrow hints at both the limits and the strengths of loyalty.

In describing the Sabbatical years, every 7 years the land is to rest. But after 7 times 7 cycles—on the 50th year it is a Jubilee year. And at that time all land reverts to its original owner as if generations of care didn't happen. Perhaps it is a sign that even the biblical mindset understood the limits of perpetual loyalty for loyalty's sake. Or maybe in the end, what's good for the goose is good for the gander. Sorry so brief and undeveloped—but I couldn't go two days without writing—at least for myself. Morris

Sent by my iPad