

FREEDOM

Easter Sunday



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FREEDOM

from

DEATH



JOHN 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



EPHESIANS 2:1 (NIV)

As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins.



EPHESIANS 2:4-5 (NIV)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.



FREEDOM

for

LIFE



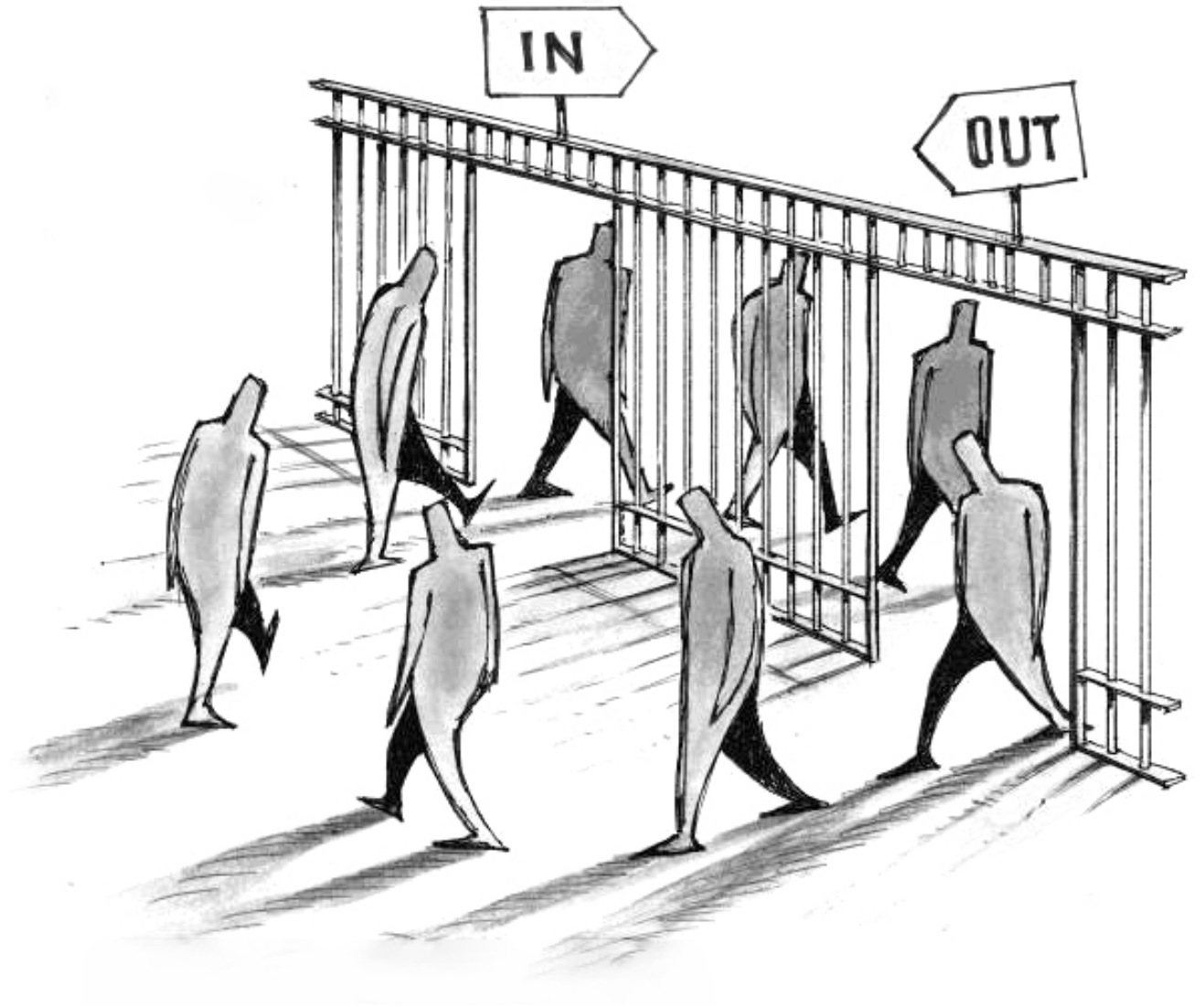
ROMANS 6:4 (NLT)

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.



Nearly 64% of violent federal offenders released from prison in 2005 were rearrested for a new crime within the next 8 years

US Sentencing Commission Report



2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.



***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are

looking at their neighbors in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

***Lockdown* by Brother Richard**

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,

Sing.