

## Gall bladder parable

When reflecting on the way things are in the world today I flashed back to that morning when I could not get warm. I piled blankets on and still I shook from the cold. I didn't have a fever but something was very wrong. I called my son to come and take me to the urgent care center. Fortunately I had medical insurance so nothing slowed down my getting seen right away. Within hours, I was in surgery. They removed a decaying gall bladder that was within hours of killing me.

Looking back on this I remember my gall bladder giving me problems. I even went to the doctor. With a list of offending foods to avoid I was able to get on with my life. A few lapses only needed some medication and things got back to "normal". Years went by and things settled down with few interruptions from my pesky gall bladder. We coexisted comfortably so nothing needed changing. That is until that morning.

Gall bladders are an essential part of the human body. They provide a necessary part of the digestive system that keep us alive. When healthy, they help us thrive. But when something goes wrong, they can kill. Without that immediate removal, I would have literally been 'removed'.

Which brings me back to the way things are in the world today. When truth is healthy it keeps us going and even makes us thrive. But when truth becomes diseased, as it appears to be becoming now, it can kill us. Like my gall bladder it can only go so long before it demands to be dealt with in an appropriate way. Now I need to face the ways that going along to get along is deadly in my life. How have I accommodated to untruths because I didn't want to upset someone? How has my avoidance of signals slammed me into the truth of "I should have seen this coming?" What 'foods' of truth have I eliminated from my diet to go along to get along? Like my gall bladder the problem originated in me. It didn't invade me.

I hope this parable might stir something in each of you. Is it time for each of us to look within to find the truth? It might be a better path than trying to find an enemy to blame. It also might be when we each should call that loved one to take us to urgent care if we need to.