



Grain

“Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that.”

Father Richard Rohr

Submitted by Sharyl Manwiller, Amery

Field

“22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ...24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.” St. Matthew 15:21-28

Thoughts

Prayers for the loved ones of Heather Heyer, victim of a white terrorist attack, the two police officers killed and for all who were injured in Charlottesville over the weekend. Some of the white supremacists who organized the violent rally wear suits, are educated and well connected, and they have a plan for our country. The alt-right tries to sanitize racism and other prejudices using the language of identity politics; they have a mission to make that politics main stream, hence the hoods and masks have come off. Even though some of the groups involved have new names, they are talking about old fashioned hatred. And let's face it, the federal administration is not sufficiently condemning it. What do we say as Christians?

We are at a crossroads. Do we allow voices of old hatred rule our present and future or will we work to end it? We need the tenacity of the Canaanite woman who recognized the abundance of God's love. She questioned Jesus for his wanting to wait to share that love. She probably heard stories of how Jesus wasn't hindered by expected barriers when he delivered a message of healing. As someone geographically and culturally removed from where Jesus focused his ministry, she still knew that she and her daughter were not far away from the love of God. Her faith astounded Jesus and influenced him in his new ministry.

God invites us to expand our vision of love. Let us name biases that creep into our daily lives and old hatreds disguised. Engage people about what's happening in our country. Small acts are important and so are you. Be tenacious. God loves us. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy