



Grain

“We are here as part of creation, not consumers of it.” Sister Joan Chittister
Submitted by Vernita Kennen,
White Bear Lake, MN

Field

“24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’” St. Matthew 16:24-26

Thoughts

Power is a tricky word, which can make us shift in our seats if someone implies we desire it. At the same time, we may openly express our goals for building up our congregations, ministries, as well as other worthwhile projects and missions in our lives, showing our interest in positive power. In the realm of public policies and speech, we can also want influence. The Church has always had a voice in government. However, we need to be alert to just how political agendas and religion mesh. Kevin Kruse in his book, *One Nation Under God*, says that our history includes secular leaders without any interest in religion strategically co-opting Christianity for their own agendas. The co-opted Christianity Kruse talks about is diametrically opposed to the teachings we find in the Beatitudes and throughout scripture.

The real power of Christianity is always in returning to the death and resurrection of Christ, who called his disciples to a path of continually dying to their small selves and opening up to life – vital breath, spirit, soul. When enchanted by powers that lead us to having contempt for certain of our neighbors, and when we get absorbed in our own consumptions without regard for those we step on or for how we impact the earth, we don't need to get stuck there. We pray for the grace to return to realizing we are a part of creation together with our neighbors; that is the message, sometimes the cross, we carry into the public sphere. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

Many blessings upon you,
Pastor Cindy