



Grain

“...to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.” Matthew 25

Field

“Our faith, our belief in the God whom Jesus loved is a belief in a God who hungers for all to have life abundant, and that means giving - in charitable giving and direct service, but also understanding with astuteness why people are hungry and then saying wait a minute we can address those systems. We can be the great cloud of witnesses throughout time who have sought to change economic injustice.”
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda

Thoughts

I one time heard a priest say, “The one who received one talent was very cautious, always did the right thing and didn’t make many mistakes. The one who received five talents sometimes made mistakes but once in a while would jump into the water to save a drowning child.” Is this good news? Maybe if we are like the five-talent or even two-talent one in the parable, but will we be punished if we are overly cautious like the man with one talent? What happened to our God of grace?

No one part of scripture defines all of God’s justice and love. In this lesson we are jolted into being alert to faithfully following Jesus and our God who “hungers for life abundant for all.”

This text is the second of three Sunday lessons in a row warning us about disastrous consequences to our actions or inactions. As in the other two lessons, this one is also leading up to the betrayal, arrest and death of Jesus. How did the disciples respond when they were in a position to take a risk and stand with their lord? Peter struck out three times denying Jesus as he cautiously protected himself. Not only was Peter forgiven, but he continued as a main figure in God’s divine history; Peter’s failure in a given moment didn’t define him. That’s great news. Yet we need to be alert because things can go wrong. We don’t want to be repeatedly silent in the face of injustice or always turn away from our neighbor when we can be generous with our attention and action, recognizing and challenging the systems that do harm. The arena of public policy is in the forefront for creating change in our society and is an example of where we can take action. Which public policies are we supporting? Which ones are we resisting? It makes a difference.

The Gospel engages us to be part of the “great cloud of witnesses throughout time” in the face of injustice. That is good news. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy