



Grain

“Don’t be shy about making a teacher of any willing party who knows what he or she is doing.”
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Field

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. Luke 2:28-37

Thoughts

Merry Christmas!

In Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s memoir, Justice Sotomayor talks about how she has always looked for mentors surrounding her. In the 5th grade she wondered how she could excel more in school, and so she asked one of the best students in her class how she did so well. The girl was honored and shared her study habits that ended up seriously helping the young Sonia. Who thinks of this in the 5th grade? And wait, aren’t classmates supposed to be learners, not teachers?

The poverty and littleness of Christmas include glimpses into the expansive space in the Kingdom of God that continues into the story at the temple. The elderly widow, Anna, a person who would ordinarily be perceived as someone to take care of, is named as a prophet. Simeon reveals that part of Jesus’ path will be to light a way for Gentiles, an extraordinary prophecy given the expected and acceptable divisions of the day. Those present at Jesus’ birth and circumcision were eager to greet Jesus into their lives and recognize how the world could be. We also know that soon Jesus will face powers that try to stifle voices and maintain divisions based on imagined superiority. In our own society, we are bombarded with messages and historic forces that tell us which groups different than our own we should hate and blame without discerning common problems working against us all.

In the Christmas spirit, let us keep our hearts open to the spacious room in the Kingdom of God, not only to be generous, but to not miss out on what we can fathom through our varied encounters and to embrace the beauty that surrounds us. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy