



Grain

“Life is a ripening process. Be patient.”

Sister Joan Chittister

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, White Bear Lake, MN

Field

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus... 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Mark 9:2-4 and 7

Thoughts

Think of times when you've had clarity about God's love and being graced in your life. God was visible in a concrete way to the disciples on the mountaintop. However, as the disciples, we don't have mountaintop experiences every day; we are not always clear about how God is present on our personal paths or in our broader journeys seeking justice. After coming down from the mountaintop, we need to remember grace in our own history and history that preceded us.

Years ago, I worked for a secular organization with a mission to make schools safer for LGBTQ youth. When the amendment to ban same sex marriage in Wisconsin hit the media in 2005, students who were learning to accept themselves as they were, had a visceral reaction to the news, which seemed filled with adults telling them they were second class citizens. The youths' sense of urgency, almost desperation, surprised me. Had I become jaded? During that period, I happened to lead a workshop using the documentary *Out of the Past* about LGBTQ history. I was surprised again; the youth picked up on how long struggles for change could take in a way that clearly calmed them. Henry Gerber, the first gay activist in the U.S. tried to start a movement in the 1920's but lost his job, had his newsletters confiscated, and was arrested. Gerber never saw the fruits of his labor, but there were fruits. We move toward justice in slow small steps and experience backlashes and leaps forward. Hope is present even when we don't see it. The young people needed to learn that, and it helped me to remember.

Spiritually remembering is also important. The word for remember in Hebrew, *zakar*, also means to relive in a way that engages us in the present. When you are not on the mountaintop and God's voice seems silent, remember times you were clearer about grace and how goodness visibly prevailed. Remember the disciples with Jesus transfigured. Remember forgiveness. Also remember to be patient with yourself even as you have a sense of urgency. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy