



Grain

“We are each other’s harvest; we are each other’s business; we are each other’s magnitude and bond.”
Gwendolyn Brooks

Field

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. John 15:12-17

Thoughts

The sense of mutuality between friends and love for a broader community permeate the Gospel lesson. John’s text brings to mind passages from the book of Sirach in the Apocrypha: “A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: to have found one is to find a treasure. . . A faithful friend is an elixir of life; and those who fear the Lord will find him (her/them).” Jesus invites us to be that sort of friend, as he has offered his own friendship to us.

Scripture shows different types of friendship and also shines a light on friends’ misguiding one another and on their fickleness – just ask Job about the latter. In both the Old and New Testaments, value is placed on commitment in friendship that is not only about remaining in our comfort zones, but having a willingness to risk for someone. Jesus then asks us to take that love beyond our immediate circles. In our close knit communities and in the larger world, “we are each other’s business,” as Gwendolyn Brooks says. Her line was on a handout for an intervening training for addressing racism. We don’t want to take away anyone’s voice. We don't want to take away anyone's voice or be in each other’s business via gossip (scripture points out how gossip damages relationships), but we are one another's business in a way in which love is acted out immediately around us and in public.

Which friends have taught you about God’s love? Which unexpected encounters in the broader community have reminded you of grace? When has lifting your voice for justice transformed you in love? We need to remember these things in our world today. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org
All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy